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1	Date	First and Last Name:	Ottawa County resident?	Residence	Subject:	Comments:
2	1/3/2023 8:28	Keith Wichman	Yes	Ferrysburg City	Self Determination	I'd like to make the public comment on the zoom call but I do not see how to enable my camera or mic.
3	1/3/2023 10:29	Kristen Hintz	Yes	Park Township	Where You Belong...	<p>I have been a resident of Ottawa County since 2004. Over the years, I have seen Ottawa County work with non-profits, and businesses, and other groups to make our county a more inclusive and welcoming county. I believe that all people belong, not just white, Anglo Saxon, heterosexual Christians. I am a Christian, but not one that forces personal views on others and excludes anyone who sees other wise. Personal rights are important, but not at the cost of hurting the whole community. As newly elected commissioners, it is your responsibility and oath to ensure EVERYONE feels welcomed, included and valued and proudly display it with the logo. As with the corporation council, you need to send it out to bid. You are not representing me or our community..only your special interest. This board meeting is certainly showing the lack of your transparency, not including other board members in writing new rules, trying to limit the number of public commenters, and trying to get your own corporate council without getting bids. Lastly, I suggest you read Jesus and John Wayne: How white Evangelicals corrupted a Faith and fractured a Nation.</p>
4	1/3/2023 13:44	Kelly Rice	Yes	Crockery Township	Transparency and Taxpayer Representation	<p>Ottawa County Department staff's inability to walk down the hall and ask legal questions by not having one designated corporation counsel could set the County up for significantly increased liability (lawsuits, delays, compromised reliability, etc.). Not issuing an RFP for County professional services and adding agenda items without any copies of supporting materials last minute is the opposite of transparent. The RFP process gets taxpayers the most qualified firms as well as the lowest billing rates. That is standard contracting procedure by units of government for responsible hiring of firms funded by taxpayer dollars. Approving a law firm at their standard hourly rates without any competitive bidding process is not getting Ottawa County residents the best value (I bid on government projects and typically there are lower standard hourly rates for government entities). If we go with a firm that is charging over \$200/hour plus presumed travel expenses from Lansing, and they provide 40 hours a week of support as is currently provided, that equates to well over \$400,000+ for a roll we are currently paying \$160,000/year for (if I heard numbers correctly today). Also, why would we spend all this transition effort for what you're calling an "interim" firm - especially if Doug Van Essen is willing to stay on? It seems this is just a mask for a permanent appointment of a firm that hasn't been vetted or gone through any competitive bidding process. That is deeply concerning to me as an Ottawa County taxpayer.</p> <p>All of these controversial unpublished/added agenda items that were not available for public review in the agenda ahead of time certainly seem intentional. How is that being transparent? People cannot show up for public comment and speak before the votes if they do not know what the agenda topics will be.</p> <p>I would like to receive a mark-up copy of the new rules that were presented today and assume all other supporting documents that were introduced today will be provided on the County meeting agenda/minutes website.</p>
5	1/3/2023 13:51	Bobbi Sabine	Yes	Grand Haven City	Deep concern for future of our county	<p>I am deeply shocked at the sudden and arbitrary firing of our County Administrator and our County Attorney. Both are experienced, capable, honest people who have a long track record of responsible service dedicated to quality of life for our County residents and visitors. I am even more shocked to hear of the hiring of an inexperienced conspiracy-theory extremist who thinks women are incapable of holding jobs and should not be allowed to vote. Gibbs also has a history of posting false, inflammatory remarks on social media, as well as perpetuating the lies about the last election and spreading ridiculous rumors about Satanic rituals.</p> <p>WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU THINKING???</p>
6	1/3/2023 14:52	Charity McMaster	Yes	Spring Lake Village	DEI office dissolution	<p>This act is a an aggression against equity for every citizen in Ottawa county. Your reasoning that it is divisive is completely contradictory to DEI initiatives' mission of inclusion. By dissolving the DEI office you speak out clearly against equity and the right for every citizen to have an equal weight to their voice, regardless of race, religion, sex, and economic standing.</p> <p>It is a despicable action. You undermine respect for every individual with this decision, and you are wrong.</p>
7	1/3/2023 15:10	Paul Athmann	No		Actions taken by the new commission	Thank goodness I do not reside in Ottawa County.

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8	1/3/2023 15:30	Michelle Heitman	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Concern and outrage over the firing of the county	I am disappointed and shocked that the board of commissioners fired the county administrator and hired John Gibbs.!!!
9	1/3/2023 15:32	Audrey Vander Wal	Yes	Holland City	Closing the DEI Office	I am concerned to see that you all hastily decided to close the DEI office. I was hoping that the new board members would show consideration and willingness to work with an office that they did not agree with. Closing the office so quickly is a sign of being impulsive and not willing to take time and gather information, and a lack of willingness to work and compromise with people who have differing opinions. I am disappointed in the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. Please be more thoughtful and less impulsive in the future.
10	1/3/2023 17:08	Bruce Johnson	No		County Administrator	Why did you hire a total fatso as your administrator? You have totally lost my respect. That man doesn't have cheeks, he has fat tires on his face. How do you expect any of your employees to respect him,
11	1/3/2023 17:10	Michelle Goodwin	No		Hiring of John Gibbs	It is most unfortunate that the board has hired John Gibbs and is taking actions to make a large change in direction. I will no longer be shopping and spending money in Ottawa County and will encourage friends to consider doing the same.
12	1/3/2023 18:10	Holly Mueller	Yes	Georgetown Township	Today's meeting	I am absolutely appalled by the circus you created at today's meeting. Each action taken was deplorable. Taking away our slogan of "Where You Belong" says it all. Businesses will not come here. Our housing values will drop. Your actions have huge financial implications for us. Shame on you!
13	1/3/2023 18:31	Constance Busser	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Recent Commissioner's meeting	As a 30 resident of Ottawa County, I have always valued and respected the diversity of opinions among my neighbors. However I am greatly disturbed by the latest actions of the board of commissioners today, January 3. Why the rush to change the agenda at the last minute? Why fire the current County Administrator and install John Gibbs without input from your constituents? And to eliminate the Department of Equity and Inclusion with the explanation that it "promotes division" seems to promote the possibility of more inequity and exclusion. I am very disappointed in the underhanded, rash, and one-sided actions taken by the new county commissioners.
14	1/3/2023 18:56	Lucas Jones	Yes	Holland City	Shitshow at the recent meeting.	Hi there. As an Ottawa Co resident, I want to know how in the flying f*ck firing John Shay and having to pay his years severance pay (because there is surely nothing that will pass in court as anything even close to resembling just cause) is going to help set this county on the right path? Furthermore, John Gibbs (not an Ottawa Co resident) is an absolute sh*tshow of a choice. He's a chauvinist pig that should not be allowed near any leadership role anywhere.  AND, what the hell is your issue with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office?? Jesus Christ. I'm a Christian and I cannot comprehend how y'all can read the Gospels, read the words of Jesus, and then go out and sneak and deceive like a serpent all in the name of "Christian American Values"? You are the f*cking Pharisees. You're disgusting. Honest to god, it would be a wet dream for you if y'all could become the American Taliban. Let me guess, we are going to outlaw homelessness because it makes the f*cking rich as*holes uncomfortable? Why don't you push for affordable housing? Or affordable healthcare? OR GOD FORBID AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE?? Holy sh*t. Please kindly go f*ck yourselves and then reevaluate your life choices.
15	1/3/2023 19:01	Rebecca Bakale	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Thank your	Thank you for listening to the voters in Ottawa County and making changes. Keep up the good work! ðŸŽŠ
16	1/3/2023 19:06	Jaymie Perry	Yes	Georgetown Township	Financial Stewardship	I am concerned about the financial stewardship decisions from the meeting on 1/3. Changing the motto of the county (without clear public input) will cost unnecessary money. This is money that could be used to address other more important issues in the country. Also, removing employees without clear reason and then having to pay that person and a new person seems to be a waste of taxpayer resources. This county is known and loved for fierce financial stewardship of public funds please consider this as you move forward.
17	1/3/2023 19:54	Sue Busscher	Yes	Park Township	Replaced board members	I do not understand how John Shay can so easily be replaced and the diversity department shut down? I have to ask myself the motivation for these moves. If this is such a positive move, why all the cloak and danger action by the board members? When something is on the up and up and not slid in under the table, you have to question why this was the only way changes can be made. So disappointed in the board. Shame on them. How well was Gibbs vetted. His conspiracy beliefs is NOT what West Michigan is. If you are looking for a solid Republican with conservative beliefs, you should be looking to those like Peter Meijer. This move is not acceptable to me and would like to see public details about this action. Get rid of diversity commission? This is 2023, why is Ottawa county trying to move back in history. Sneaky politics is not democratic! It's sneaky and underhanded. I will be sure to be at the polls next election and a heavy campaigner. Thank you for allowing me this space to express my deep deep concerns about what the board has done.

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18	1/3/2023 20:27	Sarah Watz	Yes	Georgetown Township	Recent Board Replacements	<p>I didn't grow up in West Michigan but moved here after college as soon as I could, believing at the time I was achieving a lifelong dream of living in one of Michigan's natural wonderlands. That dream's now become a nightmare, and today I'm done with trying to defend the virtues of Ottawa county to anyone anymore. The ambush appointment of election-denier and misogynist John Gibbs to county administrator was injury enough, but the further appointment of Nathaniel Kelly, whose qualifications for top health officer are in dispute, as well as the termination of the DEI department went beyond the pale.</p> <p>As for changing the county's vision statement from the inclusive and welcoming "Where You Belong" to "Where Freedom Rings"--how dare you? How DARE you act with such maliciousness to alienate and divide the people of this county? How DARE you find the nerve to draw crystal clear that line between those welcome (I'll say it--white, heterosexual, Christians) and those who are not? This change cannot be passed off as patriotism when the fingerprints of Ottawa Impact are all over it, that cancerous group who only care about "freedom" when it means rebelling against being told what to do like a tantrumming toddler. Where is my freedom to allow my child access to books that will widen her worldview? If I lived in Jamestown Township, gone, because my bigoted neighbors would rather force my family to abide by the rules of a religion I don't believe in. Where is the freedom in that mentality?</p> <p>I am sick and tired of living in the black eye of West Michigan.  I am tired of reading the news and seeing my local school district displaying blatant racism against children.  I am tired of my tax payer dollars being wasted on senseless, impromptu appointments and severances.  I am tired of seeing our communities become national embarrassments because in 2022 we're still out here trying to ban book and fight hateful culture wars.  I am tired of pretending that this is a great place to live, that I don't regret moving here with every ounce of my being, and that I'm not terrified for the futures of my daughter and her classmates as they grow up in a place so determined to run on hate.</p> <p>I know the obvious solution at this point might seem to move away, but seeing as that's probably the goal Ottawa Impact is trying to achieve, I think I'll stay and fight a little while longer. Ottawa County needs people with integrity, apparently that's on a shortage these days.</p>
19	1/3/2023 21:28	Lindsay Sichta	Yes	Park Township	Time of Board Meetings	<p>I would like to participate in these meetings, but with meetings happening in the middle of the day, it's not feasible for those of us who work on the outer edges of the county. I would like to request discussion of holding at least one meeting/month in the evening hours to encourage additional voices from the community.</p>
20	1/3/2023 22:43	Eric Bronkema	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Dissatisfaction with actions of Board	<p>What an amazing display of cowardly extreme politics. It is disturbing to see this happen at the national level. It is terrifying to see it locally. Apparently you don't need to be a lifelong politician to get corrupted.  Making changes this major without real oppurtunity for public comment is an insult to what our forefathers really stood for.  Absolutely horrifying.</p>
21	1/3/2023 23:00	Scott ten harmsel	Yes	Georgetown Township	Congratulations	<p>The news I just heard about the changes made in Ottawa County was the best thing I have heard in a long time, thank you so much  GOD BLESS AMERICA</p>
22	1/3/2023 23:28	Dan Wassink	Yes	Holland City	Disappointment	<p>I am very disappointed in the actions the board took on Jan 3. The way this was rolled out is not the what Ottawa County voters wanted and voted for. This could have been handled far better and it is an embarrassment to us. Again, this is very disappointing to the majority of people in the county. I encourage you to open your ears and listens to others outside of your echo chamber. Please.</p>
23	1/4/2023 8:44	Susanne Jordan	Yes	Holland City	Actions of the Board on January 3	<p>I am deeply saddened by the actions of the new Board on January 3. Your elimination of the DEI department, as well as changing the motto, sends the signal that inclusion is no longer a value in Ottawa County. In addition to the moral failure of these actions, I fear that this will have a dampening effect on our robust economy - the envy of the whole state. If you meant to impress the voters by your precipitous actions, you failed.</p>

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24	1/4/2023 9:10	Katherine Angus	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Recent public hearing	I am dismayed and outraged by the decisions of the new board members to dismantle the Diversity Office, to fire a perfectly good health commissioner and replace them with someone with no background in actual public health, to fire Shay and replace him with the entirely unsuitable John Gibbs. Additionally it is disingenuous to claim that Gibbs is "much-loved by our county," considering that our county resoundingly rejected his recent electoral bid--for heaven sakes, this district elected its first Democrat rather than Gibbs, that's how unpopular he is. And to change the county motto? These are choices made for political posturing rather than the good of our community. I look forward to these new candidates either changing their priorities to do better for Ottawa County residents rather than grandstanding, or to being voted out in 2024.
25	1/4/2023 9:33	Donna White	No		Typical republican take over to set things back	You all should be ashamed of your actions, you claim to represent the public but you just represent your base, you have no christian values, just republican evil hate
26	1/4/2023 9:48	Ruth and David Crouch	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Congratulations	We wanted to send along congratulations and gratitude for the changes you are making as new commissioners take over. We were very glad to read of the dissolution of the county DEI office and replacement of certain other key figures in health admin and legal representation. What a breath of fresh air to see people do what they promised to do when running for election. Thank you!
27	1/4/2023 9:50	Greta Kulpa	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Jan.3 meeting	What you did yesterday should be investigated by the State Attorney General! Absolutely NOT what the people of Ottawa county stand for nor want! Do not change our motto! Get John Gibbs OUT OF OUR COUNTY!! He doesn't live here and does not belong on our board! Sounds to me like you just took 12 steps back. Not moving forward at all. Disgusting.
28	1/4/2023 10:30	Janine CHITTENDEN	Yes	Grand Haven City	Concerned Resident	The actions taken to remove John Shay, Addie Hambley, and legal counsel Doug van Essen without probable cause, as well as the termination of Lisa Stefanovsky for following State Public Health code is derelict, misguided and not in the best interest of the Ottawa County residents. It is beyond comprehension to eliminate the entire DEI office, it's process and intent. Everyone should belong in Ottawa County and the work and progress staff and employees were making was important to acceptance of all. If the current commissioners don't believe this, they themselves need diversity education.
29	1/4/2023 10:45	Archambeau	Yes	Grand Haven City	leadership and county	cooperative community, turned into what it is today.
30	1/4/2023 10:51	Benjamin Lopez	Yes	Hudsonville City	No Bulling!	Ottawa is Diverse! Love to live in a County like this one.
31	1/4/2023 11:13	Laura Boter	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	January 3rd meeting	The meeting yesterday was disgraceful. You blind sided the people and were not transparent, this is not what you purported to stand for. Replacing the County Administrator with someone who lost an election in an extremely red district by nearly 14 points was a good idea? Getting rid of the DEI, equity and inclusion threatens you? Firing people who have done their jobs well? It's clear 8 of you don't represent the people, you represent the minority, albeit loud minority, who agree with your extreme right wing agenda. Thank you to the members who voted against these actions! I am a Republican, this isn't Republican it's cancel culture.
32	1/4/2023 12:04	Stefanie Herder	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Shameful	<p>What the newly seated commissioners did yesterday is truly appalling. You surprised fired a very capable and dedicated County Administrator and replaced them with someone who has NO county or local municipality administration experience. We have so much going on with the fastest growing county in the state and now it's stonewalled by this political game. You fired the head of health department and replaced them with another person with no relevant experience. WHAT???</p> <p>You then shuttered the DEI office which honestly isn't surprising for the group but so very shortsighted. We have global companies in our county and they came to the saying the county needed this for them to be able to attract global talent. Now that you've signaled that DEI is trash to you, it will deter people from moving here for jobs and from working for companies that have headquarters here. So short sighted but you probably don't want anyone who doesn't look and think like you to move here anyways.</p> <p>After watching the meeting and the reading the coverage after, as a county citizen, I can already see how much this circus will cost the county. Not only have you appointed someone who has no idea how to administer the county, but the county is going to lose out on state and federal funding and grant opportunities.</p> <p>And all of this because most of you were mad about wearing masks. Pathetic.</p>

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33	1/4/2023 12:16	David Lutz	Yes	Robinson Township	Jan 3rd meeting	I want to first say congratulations to all the new commissioners. Thank you for all the hard work you have already done to begin your first official day. You have shown day one your commitment to God and the people of Ottawa. This is the first time I have seen elected officials in Ottawa keep there promises to the people, thank you. May God protect all of you from evil, may He continue to guide all of you through the future, and give you all strength and discernment. God Bless
34	1/4/2023 12:42	Mark Baker	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Thank you	I want to thank all the commissioners for following through with their campaign promises by making changes to promote freedom and liberty for the residents of Ottawa County. I was encouraged in seeing their commitment to purge our community of programs with dangerous ideas that have infiltrated our county government and are contrary to the founding principals of individual liberty and rewards based on talent and hard work rather than surface level features. That is truly inclusive . Thank you!
35	1/4/2023 12:43	Geri McCaleb	Yes	Grand Haven City	New Board	Off to a good start folks. Totally excited about bringing on John Gibbs as administrator, a Kallman Group attorney, and Kelley at health. He might actually follow the science. Wishing you all the best in the days ahead.
36	1/4/2023 13:13	Jenni Shepherd	Yes	Grand Haven City	Thank you!	Thank you to the commissioners that voted to replace our corrupt and clearly lying attorney, who voted to dismantle the ridiculous and very divisive DE&I department, who voted to replace our oppressive and ignorant Health Director, and who voted to replace our county Administrator with an amazing man who will do such good for our community. I could not be more proud of our county now that we have these changes. Our county government never should have allowed the corporations in this area to dictate and push programs on CRT, on race, gender, or demographics, in our county buildings, parks or employees. I am so thankful that people with character and simply good intentions are now in charge of our county. We were on the verge of moving from a here, a place I grew up and loved, because of all the horrible changes that were done here in the last 10yrs. I will gladly continue to live here now that we are going forward in the right direction. I know that all these changes will make a positive impact on the small communities in Ottawa.
37	1/4/2023 13:19	Sara Westhuis	Yes	Georgetown Township	Freedom	I want to Thank All the New Commissioners for all the hard work they did!!! THANKYOU for doing what you promised to do for the people of Ottawa county !! Your mission statement is one for everyone!!! Everyone in America should want FREEDOM!!!! I have such great HOPE for our future of Ottawa county now!!! Thank you Thankyou Thankyou!!! Finally people with integrity , that stood by their words .. and not just lip service!! Ottawa county is going to be more amazing than it was. (I have lived here my whole life , Iâ€™m 61.. and I was seeing the bad direction it was going!! Thankyou for turning it back to what it was!!!
38	1/4/2023 13:39	Shannon Shock	Yes	Olive Township	County Slogan Comments/New Board of Commissioner	My husband Daniel and I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for adapting a new county slogan "Where Freedom Rings" and electing John Gibbs. We moved to Ottawa County in 2017 after suffering 20+ years of Illinois corruption, evil, and tyranny. Thank you for standing up for freedom and giving us a sanctuary to both live and work. We are grateful to be here, and we would like to protect our area from becoming where we escaped from. Let's keep our economy strong here in Ottawa County. God bless you all!
39	1/4/2023 13:40	Jennifer stuppy	Yes	Spring Lake Township	New commissioners	I watched the entire 5 hour meeting on 1/3/23. I wanted to thank the new commissioners for correcting the waywardness of the Ottawa County commissioners these last several years. It was refreshing to see and hear from a thoughtful and discerning group of elected officials willing to put in the hard work to serve the constituents of our county. You showed great strength, grace and tact in what you did yesterday. I appreciate your willingness to end the constant flow of OC towards divisiveness and waste and to see the newly elected highly regard and stay accountable to our Us and Michigan constitutions. As a citizen of OC since 1998, parent, taxpayer, I was very happy to see what happened yesterday with replacing our current legal counsel with Kallman group ( solid decision), closing the DEI office which was extremely divisive and concerning, changing the mission statement to reflect the importance of freedom in America, appointing John Gibbs as administrator, and appointing a health director. Really really excellent first day serving the people, much much gratitude and respect for your service.
40	1/4/2023 13:53	Lisa Vanthof	Yes	Georgetown Township	Unwarranted take over	I've lived in Jenison/Ottawa county for 28 years and have tolerated the racist undertones and narrow minded beliefs of this county for far to long. Please do not continue to imply that you are the voice of your residents. You do not speak for me! I am sickened by the display this week of an orchestrated takeover that will only weaken our county. As a Christian I can not stand by quietly any longer as you promote your alt right beliefs. I pray that this county can humble itself and stop this chaos. Read the room. Most of us are not with the Ottawa Impact agenda!

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41	1/4/2023 13:58	Tommy Van Hill	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Thank You for standing up!	I would like to thank the Newly elected Commissioners for standing up against DEI which is nothing close to what it claims to be! With great leadership in Ottawa County now it will be great to see every single person actually included and respected as they are with the love of Jesus Christ rising in our county once again.
42	1/4/2023 13:59	Katherine Hoffmeyer	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	New leadership	Thank you for yesterday! I believe the DEI is causing more division than good. Although some are failing to see it yet, I believe this will bring more opportunities and growth for everyone in OC and create a place where all people will want to move. Love the new motto, commissioners, and John Gibbs. I wish that GH city would have gotten Jenni in. Thank you.
43	1/4/2023 13:59	Beth Scarbrough	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Recent Changes made by commissioners	I don't like the direction that the recent staffing changes made by the board has taken. John Gibbs is not from West Michigan nor does he reflect our values. I'm also concerned that a right wing group has taken over our Board of commissioners. If you are not going to represent all the people of Ottawa County you shouldn't hold a public office. I've lived in Ottawa county for over 40 years and now I'm worried a bunch of crazies are trying to ruin it. Stop letting groups such as Ottawa Impact influence Ottawa County politics. You are now part of the problem instead of the solution.
44	1/4/2023 14:07	Cindy Lohrke	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Thank You!	I want to give the new board of commissioners my heartfelt thank you for what you did at yesterday's organizational meeting. You kept your campaign promises. You have given me a sense of hope that we can have our voices heard in bringing Ottawa County back to freedom and family values. The steps you took were exactly what we need to begin taking back our liberties. Too long the left has been telling us how we should live. Great mission statement!! Everyone can belong when freedom is granted to the citizens.
45	1/4/2023 14:09	Thomas Walcott	Yes	Georgetown Township	Disappointment	So disappointed with last nights meeting. What experience does John Gibbs have in county administration. Does he even live in Ottawa County? How much will it cost the tax payers to pay the salary and health insurance of the dismissed administrator? So much of what this new majority has done sets our county back decades. You are not advocates of freedom. You are advocates of a right wing Trumpism.
46	1/4/2023 14:23	Stephanie Lelo	Yes	Georgetown Township	Amazing job yesterday!	Thank you for standing up and doing what you said you were going to do when running for election. The voters that supported you appreciate your tenacity and courage to be so bold on the first day! Keep up the good work.
47	1/4/2023 14:36	Pat Crane	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Praise for new Board of Commissioners	I am so proud of the highly professional way the new BOC handled their first meeting. It is obvious in everything they did that they are working for the community of Ottawa County, not a political entity. Thank you and may God bless your efforts on our behalf.
48	1/4/2023 14:38	Christen Bordenkircher	Yes	Holland City	Intention	<p>Hello and welcome to those of you new to this position of leadership in our community -</p> <p>I am writing to express just how bewildered and disheartened I am by this new example of leadership in decision making displayed at this weeks meeting. Being a moderate, I align with both sides of the aisle and often see value in all perspectives even while maintaining my own personal convictions. I am shocked that anyone that assumes a role of leadership would abuse their power in such a short amount of time. All of the changes you all made were of your own personal agendas and not truly listening to the needs of the county as a whole. To fire staff, eliminate entire offices and change a motto is glaringly obvious as to what your priorities are as far as putting yourselves before others and I hope to see better leadership in the coming months. Being a pastor's kid, my Dad would always make sure to spend the entire first year at a new church simply getting to know the congregation and vision that existed before him before making any major changes to staffing, initiatives, etc. I hope that you all will reconsider your current approach and re-evaluate this method that you are currently choosing.</p> <p>With hope, Christen</p>

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						<p>My major takeaways:            Attorney fired. Kalman group hired. Awesome!            Administrator fired...John Gibbs hired <del>at 3:30 AM</del>. His experience and level head will be a major plus!!!            New county motto from "a place for everyone" changed to:"where freedom rings" - perfectly said and explained by your chair on Justin Barclay's show today!!!!            Health director fired...new one hired. Very good move!!!            DEI department dissipated!! Terrific! Minus one unneeded governmental overreach!</p> <p>I am totally frustrated with FOX 17 and WOOD TV saying you all are "far right wing conservatives" For me, you are true republic patriots!!!</p>
49	1/4/2023 14:55	Lorie DeYoung	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	WE THE PEOPLE VOTED	THANK YOU!! Keep up the good work.
50	1/4/2023 15:01	Paul Windemuller	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	Thanks	I wanted to say thank you for doing exactly what you said you would do if elected. The decisions that were made at the January Commissioner meeting were courageous and absolutely necessary for our county to get back to its roots. The board and new staff now truly represent the values of our community. As a precinct delegate for my township I know I can say my neighbors are proud of what took place! Thank you!
51	1/4/2023 15:01	Jessica Murphy	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	Congratulations!	Congratulations to our new board members. Thank you for standing by your campaign promises to bring change and protect our freedoms. I can't wait to see how the next 2 years unfold.
52	1/4/2023 15:05	Diane Kalusniak	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	1/3/2023 Board Meeting	The actions taken at your recent board meeting on 1/3/2023 were deplorable. It's difficult to pick out any one to focus on as they were as shockingly wrong for our county and our people. I'm both angry and sad about the direction you are taking us and the underhanded and secretive way you went about it. I applaud the commissioners who voted against the downright evilness of the majority.
53	1/4/2023 15:09	Marvin Prins	Yes	Coopersville City	Great job at first 2023 meeting!	Great job with the changes made at your first 2023 meeting. The voters voted for change and you already accomplished a lot!
54	1/4/2023 15:21	Karen Helsen	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	New Board of Commissioners ~ Thank you!!	So incredibly thankful for the positive change and the newfound hope brought to Ottawa County by our new Board of Commissioners. These new Commissioners are truly representative of the people that reside in the most conservative county in the state and we are now represented by perhaps the most diverse BOC that Ottawa County has ever had. I am thankful for their wisdom, courage and direction that will set Ottawa County on a path to much needed change and future success! The voters have spoken and our new Commissioners have answered the call. Thank you for listening to "We the People" and for immediately getting to work freeing our county! May God bless your work and may he bless Ottawa County!! Indeed, let freedom ring in Ottawa!!
55	1/4/2023 16:12	Judith Harris	Yes	Ferrysburg City	Firing	You are racists people. Only care about yourself. Donald trump is a criminal.
56	1/4/2023 16:19	Linda Namenye	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Praise of Day 1	<p>Congratulations on an impressive Day 1 on the job. I was impressed how the new board members listened intently to all of the public comments regardless of if they were positive or negative. You choose the right path for eliminating the DEI which emphasized searching for how we are different rather than unifying us as Ottawa County citizens. I am very hopeful for this new board! Thank you for standing up with integrity.</p>
57	1/4/2023 16:20	Marcia Vandenbrink	Yes	Holland City	THANK YOU!	<p>We spent 3 hours yesterday at the first meeting of the BOC. We are so excited to have a new attitude with the BOC.</p> <p>When the lock downs and mandates were put in place, hubby and I were LIVID!!</p> <p>I am 1/2 blind, having sight in only 1 eye.</p> <p>I have very strong lenses in my glasses, for my good eye. With the masks, my glasses steamed up and my sight was horrible!! I came close to tripping, often.</p> <p>In the past 2 - 3 years, we changed churches because of the health dept regulations.</p> <p>There was a time, we only ate at one particular restaurant.</p> <p>We had a trip planned for FL, next month, to look for permanent housing there.</p> <p>The ONLY reason we are staying in Holland, is because of this new, diverse board!!</p> <p>THANK YOU!!</p>

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58	1/4/2023 16:46	Jodi Raymond	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Congratulations!!	<p>Congratulations to all the new county commissioners and THANK YOU for starting right off by working for "the people's best interest". DEI programs are garbage and needed to go. And we are so blessed to get John Gibbs working for us. So many answered prayers on day 1. Keep up the good work!!</p>
59	1/4/2023 17:02	Joe Fitzsimmons	Yes	Georgetown Township	BOC Meeting	<p>Ottawa County Board Of Commissioners, As a resident of Ottawa County I couldn't be more proud of the resolve and strength you exhibited during your first BOC Meeting! We The People elected you to be "the tip of the spear" in restoring the values of our county and yesterday was a beautiful start. You have my full and complete support moving forward. Let Freedom Ring Joe Fitzsimmons 616-389-7991</p>
60	1/4/2023 17:06	Bill Korfker	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Changes	<p>I felt the need to reach out today based on what transpired at the last commissioner's meeting. I feel that radical changes were made with little to no discussion or transparency. Ousting current leaders, closing what I would deem a necessary department and changing the county motto on the spur of the moment is unacceptable.</p> <p>I've identified as a conservative Republican all my life, but this feels very much like a small, far right faction has taken over and doesn't really care what the constituency feels. Thus, I needed to express my deep disappointment in how things were handled, and certainly hope that better judgement will be used going forward. Bottom line: if this continues, maybe the change in motto will be fitting as none of us will want to belong anymore.</p>
61	1/4/2023 17:24	Aaron Jay Compagner	Yes	Jamestown Charter Township	Ottawa county board	<p>I'm proud of you all already and it fills me with hope for the future for my kids. Keep up the great work and may God bless you and your loved ones.</p>
62	1/4/2023 17:38	Pete Hewett	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Representation.	<p>Welcome new members (and current). I'm reaching out to respectfully remind our board that you represent everyone in Ottawa County, even those with differing political ideologies than you may have.</p>
63	1/4/2023 17:38	Craig Haag	Yes	Crockery Township	Freedom for all	<p>Promises made, promises kept. Thank you for making a statement to the 15% of the population; that you are welcome, but you are not "special". Everyone gets the same opportunity and has the same voice. God speed!!!</p>
64	1/4/2023 17:45	Tami Zahl	Yes	Robinson Township	Thank You	<p>Thank you, to all of our new County Commissioners! Thank you for staying in the fight, for pushing onward through elections, words against you, and more. Thank you for standing strong at the first meeting of the year, and making changes to stand for family and our freedoms! God Bless!</p>
65	1/4/2023 17:48	Denise Ruwersma	Yes	Wright Township	Support of recent decision	<p>I want to thank you new commissioners on your recent decisions to clean house and set an example for other counties to take a stand a preserve our constitutional rights. You have listened to your constituents and are standing on your commitment. Again "Thank You!" May God protect you and give you strength!</p>

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66	1/4/2023 17:55	Rhonda Sanders	Yes	Holland City	You have disgraced Ottawa County	<p>I am saddened and angry about the decisions the board made to eliminate the county's diversity, equity and inclusion department, the appointment of John Gibbs as the new administrator and the replacement of the health officer. Not to mention changing the motto to something that does not represent the entire population of Ottawa County.</p> <p>In one single meeting you set our county back decades. We, the people of Ottawa county, are made up of different ethnic backgrounds, members of the LGBTQ community and other diverse minorities. You silenced their voices!</p> <p>John Gibbs isn't even a resident of Ottawa County! How can he represent us? I think he is only using this as a stepping stone in his political career. He has no interest and is not invested in the people that live here.</p> <p>I will continue to support Doug Zylstra. He grew up in Ottawa County and is interested in representing our diverse community! The rest I will continue to vote to remove you from the board and do whatever I can to support your removal.</p> <p>Signed- Disgruntled in Ottawa County Where you no longer Belong!!!</p>
67	1/4/2023 18:03	Mary Sall	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	New leadership	<p>Congratulations to new board members. Excited to have caring, conservative, God honoring leadership to take our county forward. Thank you for taking this stand to help the people of Ottawa County preserve our freedoms and family values.</p>
68	1/4/2023 18:06	Lisa Slater	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Thank you!	<p>Thank you for standing up for freedom! Thank you for being a voice of reason! Thank you for making smart changes and making a difference.</p> <p>The changes you made during the OC commission's meeting gave me hope for our future. Thank you for standing up!</p>
69	1/4/2023 18:09	Michelle Korson	Yes	Grand Haven City	Underhand changes in key departments.-	<p>I am not impressed with the actions of the new commissioners. Replaced key positions with political lackeys which do not represent my interest and are polarizing. This look more like an immature victory party than adults in a leadership position conducting business in the best interest of the the communities you serve. This is not what Ottawa county is. Shame on you!!!</p>
70	1/4/2023 18:19	Barry Timmer	Yes	Blendon Township	Resent activity	<p>I am waiting on the minute from the meeting. My future vote will not be for any commissioner which voted for these actions.</p> <p>What an embarrassment you are</p>
71	1/4/2023 18:23	Kimberly Jongsma	Yes	Holland City	January 3 Meeting	<p>I'm reading about this meeting and how the new board members are proud of making many drastic changes without giving the public time to know about it and I find it very shameful. Your decisions yesterday do not reflect my views, or the views of anyone I know in Holland. You are not serving the public by appealing to MAGA values. I'm extremely disappointed in the actions of my county's board of commissioners.</p>
72	1/4/2023 18:28	Ed and Susan MacDonald	Yes	Wright Township	Ottawa County Board's underhanded tactics	<p>We're very concerned about decisions made without a public hearing or input. Ottawa County residents did not want John Gibbs, a election denier. Yet you appointed him and fired someone who you happened to disagree with. Then there's someone that's appointed a so-called health expert that's running a heating and cooling company. Where are your brains. It looks to us like a personal vendetta. You're like children. If you don't get your way, you throw a tantrum and go against what's best for the County. It's disgusting. We would vote all of you out of office that did this. Did you happen to follow Hitler's or Mussolini's tactics on how to run a dictatorship? Seems like you did.</p>
73	1/4/2023 18:44	Mark Gilmore	Yes	Holland City	Embarrassing	<p>Our new extremist right-wing board is very embarrassing and does not represent me in the slightest. I want you to know that I am ashamed of your xenophobic tendencies. Ottawa County deserves better. I am confident that you don't represent a majority of the people of this great county, but are rather a consequence of unequal district representation.</p>
74	1/4/2023 18:57	Lynn VerHage	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Thank you!	<p>My family and I are so grateful to the commissioners for their work on behalf of Ottawa county. We are grateful for John Gibbs's role as the new administrator, and we anticipate an exciting new direction for our county. Let freedom ring!</p>

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75	1/4/2023 19:02	Jay Wagoner	Yes	Georgetown Township	Thank You New Board Members!	Thank you to the new board members for starting off on the right foot by fulfilling many of your campaign promises! It's time the corruption and back room deals that have plagued Ottawa County government for years ends. The actions that were taken yesterday will rub some residents the wrong way, but it was critical that they were taken. The arrogance of the former leadership and staff was an insult to constituents they were supposed to be serving. Thank you for having the courage of your convictions and for listening to the voters. You are a breath of fresh air to an all too stale system. Keep up the great work!
76	1/4/2023 19:12	Roberta Nauta	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	New OCCs	You were voted in by the people for the people. You stand for our Constitution! I applaud all of you. Your incredible strength and beliefs will be forever etched in my mind of what battle is at hand, and how you all rose to the challenge. Thank you and GOD be with you
77	1/4/2023 19:27	Donna Veldheer	Yes	Olive Township	Yesterday's board meeting	Wonderful job! Glad to hear our Health Department will be working for the people and that we will have a lawyer working for the County that will give you advice that allows freedom. Praying that all this flack subsides soon. We are so happy that we will finally have commissioners who work for the people!
78	1/4/2023 20:14	Ron Reister	Yes	Chester Township	Thank You	Thank You Mrs. Allison Miedema... for your courage and no nonsense work ethic. We have been following the New Board and we Thank Almighty God for our New Commissioners. May our Awesome Jehovah God Bless You All.
79	1/4/2023 20:35	Courtney Holmes	Yes	Crockery Township	Congratulations	I am so proud of the new board members and their intellect. I appreciate their hard work and doing their homework before they were even sworn in. Thank you!!!
80	1/4/2023 20:53	Thomas Drasiewski	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Apparent takeover	I'm a resident of this county and I should have some say in how we're governed. You've denied me that right.
81	1/4/2023 20:54	Kirstin Siegel	Yes	Robinson Township	Last Meeting	As a member of Ottawa County, I am extremely disappointed in the outcome of the last meeting. What is most concerning is getting rid of the diversity and inclusion committee. As a mother of a multiracial son, we moved to Grand Haven to feel safe and give him the best community to support him. You have stripped us of that. Diversity does not just come from people's hearts as we have seen as a nationwide problem. Please consider putting the group back in place to keep my family safe.  Right now, I feel that our commissioners are definitely not gearing ALL the people in the county which is their duty to do. The way the commissioners acted in the last meeting is not Ottawa County and I'm very disappointed.

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						<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I need you to hear my deep concern over the direction that the Board appears to be taking, according to the recent mlive article regarding your change of the county's motto. Let me be clear: my unease isn't due to any particular wording, since I don't see the new phrase "Where Freedom Rings" as negative in any way. But the language of the resolution, and the meaning behind the decision, disturb me immensely. According to the article, the former motto "Where You Belong" was adopted to encourage a sense of belonging for people of diverse backgrounds. Your new resolution prevaricates that this "promote[d] the divisive, Marxist ideology of the Race Equity movement," and that a racial equity office is unnecessary, or even problematic, in a 90% Caucasian county.</p> <p>I am a church-going, 20-year resident of Grand Haven Township, and my children both attended (one currently) Grand Haven Public Schools. I will be blunt. I could not in good conscience vote for any of the current "Ottawa Impact" nominees for office this past election cycle. The credo of this group seems to be that (a) public school students should be steered away from discussion and discovery, and toward predetermined "acceptable" ideas, as determined by individuals who disagree with the curriculum ("parental rights") (b) public school students should never be made to feel uncomfortable with history, and therefore any social / class / racial tensions should be elided over or relegated to the past (sometimes called "anti-woke" or "anti-CRT") and that (c) the majority religion of Christianity (to which I belong) enjoys the right to impose its social values on others, rather than openly discuss the merits of these values ("freedom of religion and conscience"). Now, I do accept the fact that you were voted into these offices, as well as others, by popular majority, and this legitimately indicates the preferences of the Ottawa County electorate. In the same spirit of electoral rigor, however, I will work to make it transparent that the direction that this Board seems to be heading in does not reflect well on the good people of this county.</p> <p>I will once again state that the three words of the new Ottawa County motto are not problematic to me. It is the meaning and intentions behind the change that are problematic, and I will argue loudly and vote strongly against this trend in Ottawa County as long as it continues.</p> <p>Sincerely, James M. Baker</p>
82	1/4/2023 21:33	James M Baker	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Concern over Board's apparent direction	
						<p>I offer my congratulations to the new members of the Board of Commissioners as well as my sincere thanks in demonstrating your commitment to your campaign promises shown in the action taken at your meeting on Tuesday!</p> <p>Hiring John Gibbs as county administrator, closing the DEI dept. and appointing a new health director were amazing strides to getting our country back on the right track and seeing a decisive direction for the future!</p> <p>I'm grateful for each and every one of you! Lead on and God bless you!</p>
83	1/4/2023 22:28	Sherri Zandbergen	Yes	Robinson Township	Congratulations	
84	1/4/2023 23:33	Gary Vosburg	Yes	Park Township	inappropriate actions of the new commissioners	<p>I am extremely disappointed in the actions of the commissioners in their first days on the job. After all the posturing a positioning that so many of you did during your campaigns about respecting the rights of citizens and how the commission needs to be open and transparent, you pulled this horrendous stunt! You are not representing me in any way shape or form. Back up and be responsible!</p>
85	1/5/2023 0:36	Tom Coulter	Yes	Holland City	Absolutely embarrassing	<p>I am mortified to learn of all these abrupt changes without proper investigation as well as the horrific look of instilling a losing candidate, backed but the single worst president our great country has ever seen. Any why? The six of you who voted this through are an embarrassment to me, my family, Holland, Ottawa County, Michigan, and the United States of America. Please explain yourself. I demand that as a citizen and voter!</p>
86	1/5/2023 2:54	Sally Cronkright	Yes	Zeeland City	New BOC	<p>Welcome to our new commissioners! Thank you for keeping your promises. You are covered in prayer. Stay strong, stand firm. We The People appreciate you. What a first day!</p>
87	1/5/2023 7:13	Chris Kamman	No		Praise for your courage to evict wokeness	<p>A very brief shout of encouragement &amp; praise for your courage to evict wokeness, racist, marxist madness. Applause from an Indiana neighbor. We'll be spending a trip to your area each year just to support your economy to show our support for your policies. America can survive these policies with God give grace motivated courage to stand. Chris. Greenwood IN</p>
88	1/5/2023 7:51	Daniel Reed	Yes	Georgetown Township	I liked the old motto better	<p>I am in Ottawa county resident currently serving in Kuwait and I would like to say I like the old motto better. The commission wants to prove that they are racist and that everybody's not included to live here. The attitude of the county commission is not what I'm serving for.</p>

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89	1/5/2023 8:01	Colleen VanOcker	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Board changes	VERY disappointed and troubled by your first actions as board members. Firing people without reason, hiring people without vetting them, making these decisions behind closed doors. Nathaniel Kelly has a history of promoting unfounded theories about COVID-19. It raises questions about his qualifications as county health officer and creates distrust among county residents. Eliminating the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion dept.? Really? You are sending a message to everyone, white people only. Your changes are troubling and scary. Please read the rules about OMA. (Michigan's Open Meetings Act (OMA), 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 et seq. requires public bodies to hold public meetings if a quorum of the board is present. In addition, any decisions or discussions on matters that could pertain to a decision must also be conducted in a public meeting.) Apparently you didn't bother to read it.
90	1/5/2023 8:13	Gina Grimm	Yes	Holland City	John Gibbs	How shameful that votes are done in secrecy, just to secure someone's place on the board of commissioners. JOHN GIBBS MUST GO!! Someone of his poor moral character does not belong on the Holland board.
91	1/5/2023 8:39	Shari Utting	Yes	Holland Charter Township	BOC meeting	I want to praise and thank the newly elected commissioners for all their hard work over the last year getting elected. I was so impressed that they stood by their campaign promises and on the first meeting started making a difference and made some much needed change to our county. We are blessed with their leadership!
92	1/5/2023 8:39	Phil Rietberg	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Appreciation	Good morning, I cannot thank you enough for believing in our founding fathers of our country. Standing up for freedom and a voice to be heard.  Having John Gibbs as leader is great.  Keep up the good work!
93	1/5/2023 9:04	Laura Marzec	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Right Direction	I'm glad to see our county going in the right direction! We need this kind of leadership!
94	1/5/2023 9:24	Janet Coryell	Yes	Georgetown Township	Public Health	The public health of Ottawa County needs to be taken seriously. The recent appointment of a person with no public health training, background or certification, replacing an official who possessed these characteristics, is unwise, unethical, illogical, and probably illegal. While many people hold differing views on how best to deal with issues of public health during health crises, such as the Covid pandemic, the citizens of this county deserve, at the very least, someone trained in the field. The board has instead chosen, apparently, an HVAC installer who wants to send everyone a neti pot to treat a deadly virus. Kindly revisit your decision and appoint someone whose guidance we can trust. That would be a doctor, someone with a master's in public health, someone experienced in the public health field. We deserve no less. And, by the way, the complete lack of transparency regarding your actions as a board are an abomination to the principles of open meetings and fair governance. You have been elected to office and you are thus bound to obey the laws of the state regarding the public's right to know what you are up to so that we may have a voice in the laws and rules that govern us. The board of commissioners represents everyone in this county, not just a select few. Kindly act accordingly.
95	1/5/2023 10:25	David Barkel	Yes	Park Township	Recent board actions	The current Ottawa County Board of Commissioners appears to be controlled by a majority of racist, anti-science idiots who have now put my health and well being at risk. That is not acceptable!!
96	1/5/2023 10:35	Julie Norkoli	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	First Day Changes	Thank you for keeping your promises by beginning your service with much needed change. I look forward to seeing the positive effects of these initial changes. It appears you are about to be attacked from all directions, and I really hope you stay strong. It won't be easy but "We the People" support you! - Thank you

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97	1/5/2023 10:45	Robert Parrish	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Jan 3rd Commission Meeting	<p>I am highly disturbed by the actions taken by the new Board of Commissioners at its January 3rd meeting. First, the process of adding major action items to the meeting agenda at the last minute, without any public notice, if not illegal under the Open Meetings Act, is certainly highly disrespectful of the citizens this group purports to represent. How could we as citizens have possibly developed and submitted our thoughts on the very important actions taken by the Board with no notice? This tactic smacks of autocracy—we will jam through our own desired actions, having absolutely no interest in learning what the Ottawa County residents we represent think about them. It is also the height of hypocrisy, being carried out by Commissioners who complained that the previous Board did not adequately seek and allow citizen input into its decisions.</p> <p>Secondly, I am voicing my strong objection to several of the actions taken by the majority of Commissioners at the January 3rd Board meeting. The then current county executive and health officer were fired without cause. Particularly with the county executive, not only was there no cause; he to my knowledge was doing an excellent job. What were the specific reasons for firing him? And, what was the search process to find his replacement? How do we, the constituents and those paying the salaries through our taxes, know that this Board selected the most qualified candidate, or even a qualified candidate? What qualifications does John Biggs bring to this position, other than the fact that he is a far right extremist who shares many of the opinions of the majority of Commissioners?</p> <p>Then we have the appointment of Nathaniel Kelly as the county health officer. If this wasn't so serious a position, this appointment would be laughable....worthy of an SNL skit. There is no way in which a group of Commissioners who truly care about their public's health would install this person as the county health officer. I am very afraid of what happens in this county when the next pandemic hits. Kelly advocates treatments that are unproven and opposes measures that are proven to be effective (e.g., mask wearing.). it will be a disaster.</p> <p>Finally, with the number of characters I have left, I strongly disagree with the action to terminate the county's DEI program. This action shows that the Board majority cares nothing about making this county as good as it can be. What's next...."Whites Only" signs at the county lines?</p>

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						<p>It's hugely ironic that this new Board, who publicly promises transparency in their actions, are in reality the exact opposite. The decision to fire Shay and hire Gibbs, fire the public health officer, and even change the motto of the county with ZERO advance notice or opportunity for public input, is distressing and is how authoritarian governments operate, not representative democracies. You clearly planned your actions ahead of time and why else would Byron Center resident John Gibbs just "happen" to be at the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners meeting?</p> <p>Public Health is an office at the crossroads of science and public policy. You are charged with protecting the health of the public, which means controlling public actions during a pandemic for the health and safety of the greater good. Instilling fear of vaccines is going to set our public health backwards. Do you want measles, smallpox, and diphtheria to return? None of us under 60 know what it's like to live through one of those epidemics because we all grew up in the era of mandatory vaccines. There are a select few who medically cannot risk vaccinations, but they depend on the rest of us to be vaccinated for protection. I didn't even mention Covid, but do you want this to be around forever? I too would like to be done with it, but will allow real public health officials to tell me when that is, not the sham officer you just forced on us.</p> <p>Touching on the religious nature of the public comments that I heard: While the public has the right to say whatever they wish, you as Commissioners need to remember that you are serving as public government county commissioners, not on the Boards of Elders of your churches. No one is trying to close your churches and you are all welcome to worship and support your church privately as you choose. But please remember that not everyone in Ottawa County is white, cisgender and Christian. We all share this community together and public government needs to be free of religion so that all are equal and included.</p> <p>Please also remember that your actions have economic consequences. If I was a business or educated individual looking to relocate, I would give Ottawa County a hard pass right now. I find myself wishing I didn't own a home here but I do and will fight for my property values to not be ruined.</p> <p>Ottawa County -- WE ALL BELONG HERE.</p>
98	1/5/2023 10:47	Julia Bratton	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Actions of Board on January 3 2023	Thank you for your time and attention.
99	1/5/2023 11:20	Lisa Boss	Yes	Blendon Township	Public meeting act, transparency, motto, firing	I have lived and worked in Ottawa county for 50 years and am concerned over actions taken by the newly elected board. I like the old motto "you belong here", I like the people you fired and the department you eliminated. I don't like the message this new board is putting out, that Ottawa county is for some people only. It won't be good for businesses, schools, churches, or community spirit. Your actions are going to be costly to our county in many ways.
100	1/5/2023 11:47	Dave Olthof	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Job well done	I want to thank you for a job well done since being sworn in. You have upheld the ideals of our community, and are replacing the checks and balances our government needs for accountability and equality in opposition to political correctness.

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101	1/5/2023 11:51	Jonathan DeHaan	Yes	Holland City	Extremely Disappointed in Ottawa Impact Candidates	<p>I wish to vocalize my disappointment and frustration with the process and methods utilized by recently elected Ottawa Impact board members. Their subversive and secretive agenda makes plain they have no interest in the democratic process or the interests of residents in this county. These extreme actions will only alienate and divide the good citizens of this county and ultimately cost us taxpayers more money, as evidenced by their insistence on replacing the county motto. I know where I belong, and it's here in Ottawa county. John Gibbs doesn't live in Ottawa county and didn't even live in this state until a few months ago, he is merely an interloper seeking to salvage a pitiful career. The fact that the general public wasn't consulted and had no input or part in his hiring is quite simply authoritarian and reveals that Ottawa Impact is unwilling to consider the wide variety of perspectives and opinions of the populace they are supposed to be representing. Simply undoing the work of previous boards and doing so in secret is demeaning, divisive and entirely undemocratic. These actions further erode the trust of publicly elected officials at a time when doubt and suspicion are already dangerously high. It makes one wonder if Ottawa Impact board members are even interested in democratic governance or rather sowing the seeds of dissent and dismantling our democratic institutions if favor of their own autocratic process. We the people of Ottawa county deserve better from our elected officials.</p>
102	1/5/2023 11:53	Mick Bricker	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Support for the new Commissioners	<p>Ottawa County has been blessed to have some awesome new Commissioners recently take office. I know each one of them personally. The respect that I have for their work ethic, professionalism, corporate and business experience is huge. These new Commissioners will add a fresh view into Ottawa County, bring back accountability to the voters while being open and transparent. I personally expect that they will be attacked and lied about by some of the people who were displaced - this is normal. I am, however, counting on all of the returning Commissioners to behave in an exemplary manner and that none of them will have any kind of a chip on their shoulder.</p> <p>These are exciting times and I welcome all 11 Commissioners into session. I look forward to working with everyone in the future. Thank you for your hard work and for your service!</p> <p>Mick Bricker</p>
103	1/5/2023 12:20	Joseph selb	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Shady Republican Politician's	<p>I /we the voters are appalled as to your shady political moves,shaming our county,in all the news outlets. I want to know how John Gibis ended up here in Ottawa county after the voters rejected hin in run for the Governor,I did not vote for him and do not want him hear. I hope and pray the Attorney General investigates all of you, I will be contacting her and voicing my concerns as well.</p>
104	1/5/2023 12:23	Amber Lacy	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Ottawa County Board Meeting 1/3/23	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I do not agree with the firing of John Shay or the hiring of John Gibbs. The other actions taken in dissolving the DEI department and firing the Administrative Health Officer were also not in line with the people of Ottawa County. You may have had the chance to find that out had you let the public know in advance what you were planning to do. I wonder why this was done in a nontransparent and hurried way? Your actions are unethical and show that you are only here to represent a loud group of people out of touch with reality. You do not seem interested in benefiting all of Ottawa county but just those who think and act like you. I will be eager to see what comes of the investigation by the Attorney General's Department. If the actions of the board broke public meetings law, perhaps you aren't qualified for the position you currently hold and I welcome any legal consequences you could face.</p> <p>Thank you, Amber Lacy</p>
105	1/5/2023 12:27	joe mehrtens	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Thank You!	<p>I want to welcome the new commissioners and thank you all for the changes you made at the last board meeting. This is exactly what we needed and why we voted to elect you. I'm looking forward and excited to see where it takes us.</p> <p>Good work and thank you again!</p>
106	1/5/2023 12:40	Connie Maciejewski	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Recent administrative decisions by board	<p>My husband and I are angry and disturbed by the board's recent changes including the appointments of John Gibbs and Nathaniel Kelly as well as the dissolution of the racial diversity office. Shame on the new commissioners for taking to such tactics without public input. You have not heard the end of this.</p>

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						<p>Beyond disappointed that county leadership would govern in such a way as demonstrated on Tuesday, January 3rd. Iâ€™m a conservative voter, but I vote independently based personal and spiritual morals. As a Christian, I question decisions that are politically motivated for the sake of â€œwinningâ€ as opposed to doing what is right in the eyes of God.</p> <p>The lack of transparency regarding agenda items breeds mistrust and doubt pertaining to Ottawa County Commissioners.</p> <p>Changes that were made on Tuesday were based on political motivation and not necessarily in the best interests of the county. Politics have become a one up man ship between two opposing parties. Constituents have a variety of concerns - and those concerns do not always align with one party or another. Political decisions in keeping with â€œparty politicsâ€ only serve to instill deeper division between two factions.</p> <p>Changing tag lines is petty. If a new tag is desired, there are more inclusive ways to achieve that end.</p> <p>DEI office was shut down. For what reason, if not solely to adhere to conservative politics? Diversity, equity and inclusion benefit all. If changes need to be made - great! But to completely shut down the DEI office is - again - divisive. Divisiveness is all too present in the Conservative Party today.</p> <p>Iâ€™m hoping to hear of better things coming from this commission but have my doubts as the precedent has been set at the first divisive meeting. Although this may be considered a conservative â€œwinâ€ I beg to differ.</p> <p>Todd Cooper Spring Lake, MI</p>
107	1/5/2023 12:45	Todd Cooper	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Recent Changes	
108	1/5/2023 12:54	Kathleen Pedersen	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Changes made at meeting 1-3-23	<p>I am not in agreement with the staff changes made for county administrator or health services director or with the disbanding of of diversity office. The new staff placed in these roles do not represent my views and are a serious negative influence on policies in Ottawa county. These changes should have been open to public input prior to being made. I have serious concerns about the negative impact of these decisions on business growth and quality of life in Ottawa county. The people of Ottawa county should be able to review these changes ahead of time and have time for public comment and input before they are made. I think these decisions should be reversed and public comment and input should occur at the next meeting and that all decisions should be adjusted based on public input!</p>
109	1/5/2023 13:18	Jack Boers	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	January 3 meeting	<p>Thank you for following through on the platform you ran on. You meant what you campaigned on and it wasn't just talking points to get elected. You actually made tangible and needed changes. Keep up the good work.</p>
110	1/5/2023 13:22	Pam Bricker	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Newly elected commissioners	<p>The newly elected commissioners are stalwart supporters of changes for the good of Ottawa County. I know them personally and have the highest regard of their integrity, passionate beliefs and actions of faith-based thinking and the willingness to face opposition for what is true and right. We need to trust and support themâ€}.</p>
111	1/5/2023 13:40	Roger Williams	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of commissioners meeting 3 January	<p>Thank you to the new commissioners for enacting the will of the people as evidenced by the election results. Ottawa county is full of wonderful people that are welcoming of all people. They don't need a DIE committee to tell them or teach them to be that way. Our county is in much more capable hands today than it was a week ago. Stay strong commissioners, you have the majority in support of you. The resistance will be vociferous because we haven't seen conservatives actually use their authority to enact meaningful change in ways as you did this week. Keep it up, and you'll have plenty of support!</p>
112	1/5/2023 13:43	Elizabeth Katterjohn	Yes	Holland City	Excited	<p>I am beyond excited to see the changes coming to our community! To finally have critical thinkers in a place to make decisions and help support the public. As a mother the last couple years have been absolutely horrible and only made worse by the decisions of this board against our children and health. I am ready and excited to see the changes these commissioners make. I urge you to remember that we are counting on you to advocate for us, for our innocent babies who deserve medical freedom, and education not woke indoctrination!!</p>
113	1/5/2023 13:45	Rachael Baker	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Thank You	<p>Thank you so much to all of you who had the courage to stand up and make necessary changes! You are true heroes! So grateful for new leadership! Praying God's blessings, wisdom, clarity and safety for you!</p>
114	1/5/2023 14:11	Marj Williams	Yes	Wright Township	Congratulations	<p>Congratulations to the new commissioners. I look forward to many good changes under your leadership.</p>

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115	1/5/2023 14:28	Susan Picking	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	The Ottawa County Commissioner Meeting On Tuesday	I have grave concerns about the the Ottawa County Meeting this past Tuesday. I am new to Ottawa County though my parents are long time residents and I grew up around here. I am still getting up to speed on the local and county issues. My concern is in the lack of transparency and expediency of the decisions and actions taken on Tuesday. While I understand the political majority is being driven by conservative decision makers....these decisions appeared rash, hasty, and covert. One of the definitions of conservative is not wanting change.....I'm wondering what the haste was in some of these decisions and why there wasn't ample public forum? A few concerns: Changing the majority vote required from 2/3s to simple majority without pubic input, Firing and Hiring with little transparency, Dismantling of the DEI initiative without public input. This is Disconcerting.
116	1/5/2023 14:31	Jeff Norkoli	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Where Freedom Lives	<p>I am so excited to have this new Board of Commissioners take office in Ottawa County. A big shake up was necessary and this exceeds my expectations.</p> <p>Thank you for moving the meeting time to one which is more appropriate for most hard-working constituents. That's a clear sign of bringing more transparency to county government.</p> <p>I applaud your selection of John Gibbs as our new County Administrator. I was upset when he lost his bid for Congress, but I think this probably works out better for us in the long term. We need someone who will defend our liberty from the constant overreach of State and Federal government bureaucracy.</p> <p>The founding principles of this country are constantly under attack from collectivists and squishy, self-interested career politicians. I'm so happy to have a new group of leaders that rose to the occasion out of the basic calling to serve the people, specifically to oppose tyrannical mandates and put an end to the encroaching social justice agenda.</p>
117	1/5/2023 14:45	Greg Hampton	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Budget impact of Tuesday's decisions	Please indicate to your constituents how the County will pay for the severance packages of the two dismissed employees, the likely increase in legal fees and for the cost to change the motto? Also, what is the contract package for John Gibbs? Finally, what services will be offset to pay for these changes? As a comment, I realize that a number of you are new to governing, so you wanted to explain to you that you do not have an Ottawa County checkbook with unlimited funds. Your actions may damage the County's ability to service the roads, and / or provide Sheriff and Court services.
118	1/5/2023 14:51	Jane Burns	Yes	Wright Township	Changes	Thank you, Commissioners for the bold changes you've made since being sworn into office. Please continue to stay the course.
119	1/5/2023 15:08	Micah Dykstra	Yes	Georgetown Township	1/3/23 Meeting	<p>From the motto change resolution: "We need to return our nation to our roots which made America exceptional, rather than apologize for them"</p> <p>Could you please explain what this means? What are we apologizing for that you would like us to return back to?</p>
120	1/5/2023 15:56	Nathan Johnson	Yes	Grand Haven City	Recent Commissioners Meeting	While many people were not shocked by your actions in the most recent board meeting (firing several people on the spot and replacing them with like-minded people), I admit that I was completely shocked. I have always considered Ottawa County to be a good employer of choice and these moves make my view of employment with the County shaky, at best. I have always been taught that I will have to work with others and even with others that I may not like, as a fact of life. I've had a lot of jobs and positions in my career and the best ones have had leaders who draw others in, not push people out. I urge you to start working with all people and not just the ones who believe exactly what you believe and to have an open mind. You never know what you might learn about someone else. Thank you for your consideration.

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						<p>I have read about the most recent meeting of the Ottawa County Commissioners.</p> <p>I have not yet decided exactly what action I intend to take, but first it seems appropriate to promote Ottawa County far and wide across the state and the country as the place Where Freedom Rings, the place where women have the freedom to CHOOSE to get abortions, where LGBTQ individuals have the freedom to live with the support of the county as it relates to residency, employment, healthcare, education, etc. Ottawa County can now compete with San Francisco where everyone is free to do as they desire and live any lifestyle they seek and know their county commissioners will support them...FREEDOM RINGS in Ottawa County.</p> <p>I intend to raise funds to market Ottawa County as the place to be if you are a free spirit, a true individual, where you don't have to fear about being different...Relocate to Ottawa County Where Freedom Rings and live the life you want to live with the full support of our newly elected County Commissioners.</p> <p>Ottawa County will now make the words of Dr. Martin Luther King a reality: "But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right."</p> <p>And Ottawa County will be the first county in America to truly be the county Where Freedom Rings and everyone, no matter their religion, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation is welcome to be free to live and let that Freedom Ring out loud and clear by each of them.</p> <p>I will form a group soon to start promoting Ottawa County as the place to be if you want to REALLY and TRULY enjoy the freedom to live as you desire showcasing the diversity of our county and the support of the County Commissioners to come to Ottawa County Where Freedom Rings.</p>
121	1/5/2023 16:24	Randolph Paschke	Yes	Park Township	Where Freedom Rings	
122	1/5/2023 16:37	Maura Reynolds	Yes	Holland City	Changes and firings	I am appalled at what you have done in just one day. Firing without warning and without the required open meeting and time for comment is unconscionable and legally questionable. You've wasted the county taxpayer money and may have jeopardized our bond rating. Shame. Kudos to Zylstra and Borgman.
123	12/29/2022 16:48					
124	1/5/2023 16:51	Jim VanderBie	Yes	Holland City	New Board of Commissioners	Just wanted to voice my support for our BOC. Please know that the citizens of this county are in favor of having our freedoms and liberties restored. That goes equally for every person in the county. We will continue to prosper together through the decisions of this board.
125	1/5/2023 17:52	Angie Syrek	Yes	Wright Township	Thank you	Thank you to our new Commissioners for a fabulous first meeting Tuesday! You followed through on all your campaign promises! I am so excited about our future and to live in Ottawa County!!
126	1/5/2023 18:20	Smith	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	recent changes	I don't know if the new county commission violated any state elections laws at its recent meeting, but what happened was certainly sneaky and definitely not transparent. Failure to put significant issues such as firing and hiring administrators, eliminating an entire department, and changing the county vision statement on the pre-meeting agenda shows no respect for voters/citizens and our opinions. Debate is a critical part of democracy. I am dismayed and disappointed in the commission's behavior.
127	1/5/2023 19:05	William Fey	Yes	Holland Charter Township	No freedom ringing here	You were elected by voters of Ottawa county, please note voter's plural. You don't answer to just your financial backers. Firing an administrator and hiring a new one without public discussion is not acceptable. Also giving away \$210,000 w/medical insurance does not seem fiscally responsible to me.
128	1/5/2023 19:15	Amy Orban	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	thank you	thank you for the changes you made. we completely support you.
129	1/5/2023 19:20	Jane Tyron	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Firing of John Shay	I am appalled by the action of our county board. I am ashamed to say I live in Ottawa County.

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130	1/5/2023 20:02	Gayle Mandigo	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Lack of Transparency in firing of four employees.	I am glad to hear that the Michigan Attorney General is going to be looking into this disappointing lack of transparency at the first meeting of 2023 Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. My main concern was for employees who were fired with little appreciation for their years of dedication and service to Ottawa County. So much for "kind, gentle struggle," spoken by the father of Commissioner Joe Moss. I appreciate the concern of two commissioners, in particular, Doug Zylstra and Robert Bergman, who spoke up about the disappointing display of changing the rules to work for their simple majority to make sweeping changes behind closed doors. This is not how Ottawa County I don't believe should do business for its citizens. We are better than that. God is watching over all the people - not just the those that have corruption to fix. Ottawa County is a desirable place to live and work, and I hope this disappointing event can be resolved in a positive manner to benefit all those who appreciate transparency and decency. Thank-you.
131	1/5/2023 20:20	Kathy Klobucher	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Congratulations	Congratulations to the new board members. Just want to say thank you for standing up for freedom and parental rights, I think you are speaking for the silent majority. Will be praying for wisdom for all the commissioners as you move forward.
132	1/5/2023 21:38	Stephanie Archambeau	Yes	Grand Haven City	Concerns over recent changes	<p>This is now my second time writing a comment for the board regarding the recent changes announced at the January 3rd meeting. The more news coverage I read brings me more embarrassment and sadness; how could a warm, welcoming community become so divided?</p> <p>In a Wood TV 8 article discussing mixed reactions to the changes, a resident spoke about how "woke policies" do not align with the Christian/Catholic faith. Obviously, Ottawa county is primarily Christian and faith is incredibly important to our community. Christian morals and values center around treating your neighbor the way you wish to be treated. To echo GVSU professor Amy Masko, who was also interviewed, we are sending a blatant message that no, people do not belong here, directly contradicting the teachings of Christ. "Woke" policies do not exist, it is a buzzword designed to belittle so-called liberal beliefs and further divide our politics.</p> <p>In an MLive article discussing Roger Bergman's concerns about the changes, it is said that the board changed our motto because the previous motto was used to "promote the divisive, Marxist ideology of the Race Equity movement." Race Forward, an organization that analyzes racial injustice and works closely with local and regional governments, defines racial equity as the "process of eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone." Can you imagine being against a movement designed to improve everyone's lives?</p> <p>I'm also very concerned about the swift appointment of failed congressional candidate John Gibbs in any sort of leadership role. While Mr. Gibbs has an impressive track record, the fact remains that Gibbs was not elected to office, and in fact lost Michigan's 3rd district. How does his appointment represent the voice of our community? Why was there no announcement prior to the meeting?</p> <p>Much of my sadness stems from a severe lack of respect between board members and community members. To fire John Shay without warning, in the middle of a meeting, is simply cruel. It's a bully move that is callous, petty, and inconsiderate. Regardless of opinions and beliefs, there is no need for that kind of behavior, let alone from elected officials.</p> <p>I beg the commissioners on this board to open their hearts and minds just a little more; your conservative beliefs are valid and important, and I hope you recognize that not everyone shares those beliefs. Please remember that your duty is to our community as a whole, not a specific political faction.</p>
133	1/5/2023 22:39	Samuel Mignoni	Yes	Holland City	New Board and administration	I am writing to protest the recent actions of the new board. These decisions should have been reviewed and discussed. The hiring of John Gibbs is so political want we want you to do is plow our streets fix our roads and improve our parks not play politics with our money Samuel Mignoni
134	1/6/2023 6:43	Leann Parker	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Fiscal responsibility	I am greatly concerned about your ability to work as a team and to being trustworthy enough to handle my hard earned taxes. You were voted to represent ALL Ottawa County voters and the firing of individuals, the cost incurred, changing of motto and the cost incurred proves you ARE NOT responsible with my taxes and I expect transparency and a listening ear to ALL of us, as we move forward. We most certainly DID NOT need a motto change at this time and to incur so much cost in firing people without disclosing why they were not fit for their positions, makes you cowards.

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135	1/6/2023 6:58	Barb Goolsby	Yes	Robinson Township	John Gibb	Seriously why would you give this man (John Gibb) a position? He wasn't voted in office for a reason and this commission just chooses to ignore this!!
136	1/6/2023 7:13	Leigh	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Hiring of John Gibbs	<p>When I heard that the proposal by the new sitting commission to hire John Gibbs for the managers job had passed, I was appalled.           "This is happening in Ottawa County?"</p> <p>I am a conservative voter. I have boasted many times to people about being part of Ottawa County and it's character. It has so much to offer.</p> <p>To fire the existing manager without giving him a chance to continue to fulfill his responsibilities and to hire an extremely divisive individual who shows none of the characteristics of the type of person we want to be associated with in this county is incomprehensible. And this at a time when we should be encouraging each other to come together in an effort to compromise politically. We have differences, yes. But the time for forward progress in government (where everyone is not completely satisfied!) is past due. For John Gibbs to have an active part in Ottawa County decisions is a wedge driving us backward. Thank you.</p>
137	1/6/2023 8:05	Robert Flanders	Yes	Olive Township	Jan 3 meeting	I'm appalled and very disappointed about the way this meeting was held and it's result. If I could I'd leave this County in my dust. I thought we got rid of Trump and his crazy ideals in the last election!
138	1/6/2023 8:46	Dave Dunayczan	Yes	Robinson Township	Board of Commissioners	Congratulations to the newly elected Commissioners! It is refreshing to see elected officials follow up on their promises without any delay and follow the will of the majority who elected them.
139	1/6/2023 9:19	Sian Kaley	Yes	Georgetown Township	New Board Actions 2023	<p>I have lived in Ottawa County for most of my 56 years and while my personal political beliefs have not usually aligned with election outcomes, I have always felt the welfare of the county as a whole has been the guiding principal as reflected in policies directed towards residents, business, and overall quality of living.</p> <p>The recent "cleaning house" actions (referring to firings/replacements/department eliminations) seem intent on sending a message to WHO? The individuals directly effected committed the mistake of serving the county responsibly and ethically? If the elected board feels Ottawa County is so compromised (population growth highest in state and triple bond AAA rating still intact last I heard) than I am truly fearful for future transparent and inclusive discussions completely disregarded by the Board with such a short-sighted, irresponsible power grab.</p> <p>I suppose future actions may change my mind but for now I remain shocked, appalled, and sad for Ottawa County.</p> <p>Actively planning my next vote,</p> <p>Sian Kaley</p>
140	1/6/2023 9:32	John Dough	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Changes	Why did you double down on right wing conservative values? You clearly have not taken the temperature of the room. Dropping the diversity and inclusive agenda? Cannot wait to see how this plays out.
141	1/6/2023 10:08	Jeff	Yes	Grand Haven City	Horrible direction for this board	<p>This is unbelievably sad. You have degraded this county ten-fold by your actions to replace the Administrator with a completely unqualified individual John Gibbs. What a sham, What a disgusting display of idiocy. You are regressing the progress this county and in turn, this country is moving towards. You are all extremely useless if this is the kind of change and policies you want to put in place. You will all be voted out next election for this unforgiveable digression.</p>

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						<p>The wife of the pick for Health Commissioner has photos online proudly posing in front of an Info Wars sign. I would like Nate Kelly to be on the record whether or not he believes Info Wars is a relevant source of news information, along with the rest of the Ottawa County Board.</p> <p>It's important to note that they were recently found liable for spreading conspiracy theories about Sandy Hook, and other conspiracy theories spread by their owner Alex Jones include government poisoning our water, and most notably "Pizzagate"--the belief that prominent members of government quite literally eat babies. Yes, babies.</p> <p>It should be noted that John Gibbs himself tweeted a conspiracy theory about the Clinton campaign members being involved in Satanic rituals, so I would like to see him on record about that specifically and also Info Wars.</p>
142	1/6/2023 11:00	Mark Bottrell	Yes	Georgetown Township	Health Commissioner & Info Wars	Thank you.
143	1/6/2023 11:07	Jean Cota	Yes	Georgetown Township	BOC meeting	Thank you for your strong leadership on Tuesday. The changes you made on the first day were amazing for our freedoms. Your appointments of John Gibbs and Nathaniel Kelly were phenomenal. I am praying for you that God will continue to give you wisdom from above.
144	1/6/2023 11:23	Sue Miller	Yes	Grand Haven City	Mr Gibbs	Mr Gibbs you do not belong here representing Ottawa County. Your ideas and values do not represent anyone I know in this county.
145	1/6/2023 11:24	Gwen Moeggenborg	Yes	Grand Haven City	John Gibbs Ottawa County Administrator	<p>Hello - while I appreciate the email introducing yourself, I do not agree with you being in this role. The method employed to bring you into this position was inappropriate. I will be participating in the review and oversight of our current county board and their recent actions.</p> <p>Ottawa County should be where all people belong and this country in which we live where freedom rings.</p>
146	1/6/2023 11:25	Marcia mEOLI	Yes	Park Township	John Gibbs	This looks like part of what should have been an interview for a job. Only problem is: he already has the job! Let Freedom Ring!
147	1/6/2023 11:25	John Masuga	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Board Actions	Not too pleased how all this came about. Feel the Board acted a little underhanded in making all the current changes. Not very proud of our County officials at this time.
148	1/6/2023 11:26	Michael	Yes	Georgetown Township	John Gibbs	WTF?
149	1/6/2023 11:26	Sheila Bauer	Yes	Park Township	Welcome!	Welcome, John Gibbs! We are grateful for Your leadership.
150	1/6/2023 11:28	Caroline D Blinkhorn	Yes	Robinson Township	Concern regarding appointment	The new county administrator was rejected in his bid for election to the house. He lost, in part, because of the lies told about Hillary Scholten, his attitude towards women and his extreme positions on abortion. How does the public begin to trust him when he has this history?
151	1/6/2023 11:28	Bradley Norden	Yes	Holland City	The despicable conduct of the board	<p>What this board has done in its first meeting is despicable. There was zero cause to fire the administrator or the health officer, and hiring John Gibbs, a horrible congressional candidate with a track record of misogyny, is abhorrent. Talk about failing up. Nathaniel Kelly, a covid-denying HVAC safety manager, has repeatedly dealt in false information and has no experience in public health. The state department of health would be well justified in denying his appointment. This board appears to have no interest in governing the county, but only in petty political grievance and score-settling.</p> <p>This is a form request of the board to remind its members that blocking constituents on social media when they use that social media to discuss county business is illegal in the state of Michigan.</p> <p>Joe Moss, being a rank and undeniable coward who can't leave his bedside without a plastic Glock on his hip, frequently blocks constituents on platforms like Twitter. Please specifically tell him to stop being a weak and pathetic coward, and unblock his constituents on Twitter or simply delete his account.</p> <p>Happy New Year, best wishes! Your best bestie, Joe @beyond_process Spaulding</p>
152	1/6/2023 11:29	Joe F Spaulding	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Joe Moss is a rank coward	
153	1/6/2023 11:30	David Jasperse	Yes	Park Township	Transparency	Why did the current board not go through the process of evaluating the former administrator's job performance, state its reasons for dismissing the former administrator, not have administrator job performance review on the agenda, have an open hiring process for the vacated position, appear to make leadership change decisions in a closed and non transparent manner, and waste tax payer dollars in funding severance fees for the former administrator?

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154	1/6/2023 11:30	Patricia L deVries	Yes	Zeeland City	Welcome	I am thoroughly impressed with what I am hearing and reading about you Mr Gibbs. Welcome and God bless. I am holding you and the other commissioners up in prayer. PdV
155	1/6/2023 11:30	Matthew Pennington	Yes	Georgetown Township	Please Do Better	Not impressed with the initial changes and the lack of transparency at the first County Commission Board meeting. If you want the respect and support of the community, we deserve the same respect from your office.
156	1/6/2023 11:30	Greg Dykhous	Yes	Holland Charter Township	payments to former county employees	please report at the next meeting how much of the county taxpayers money is now used to pay the contracts of former employees, those individuals who were dismissed at the January meeting; thank you
157	1/6/2023 11:31	Randall Myers	Yes	Georgetown Township	Outrage	How are you promoting transparency when a hidden agenda was displayed earlier this week?
158	1/6/2023 11:31	Tom Bratton	Yes	Olive Township	John Gibbs	Looking forward to Mr Gibbs and our elected commissioners leadership of our County . Regards Tom B
159	1/6/2023 11:31	Jason Wolfe	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Crooked commissioners	All of the commissioners that voted for John Gibbs are all a bunch of idiots. The guy is a clown. The way that this issue was handled was a complete clown show. Why not put any of this on your agend? What were you scared of? Fuck all of you!!!!
160	1/6/2023 11:31	Steve miller	Yes	Park Township	Welcome aboard	Welcome aboard John!!!!
161	1/6/2023 11:31	Matthew Wescott	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Electrical Supplier Post-Consumers Energy Shutdown	Can the community get an update on what the plans are to replace those who currently receive electricity from the Consumers Energy Campbell Plant here in West Olive once that plant goes offline? It would be nice to know if we will have to get power from elsewhere and what sort of increased costs we might be facing for such distribution. Thank you in advance.
162	1/6/2023 11:32	Nancy howning	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	Your appointment	You are not an Ottawa Count resident. Are you planning to move. You were not voted in for representative. You are a fraud. Just because you are black, you are a token black because you represent nothing that represents POC. Please resign!
163	1/6/2023 11:32	Anonymous	Yes	Georgetown Township	Takeover of Ottawa County	This takeover of Ottawa county leadership is a travesty to those public servants who were forced out and to the community in which we live. This was undemocratic, immoral and will hurt residents on many levels, including our health, our culture and quite possibly a reduction in property values. I would also expect a wrongful termination lawsuit which could cost taxpayer dollars.
164	1/6/2023 11:32	Alice Holliman	Yes	Olive Township	Welcome! Looking forward to hearing more	Good Luck!
165	1/6/2023 11:33	Kellie Collis	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Disgusted	I am absolutely disgusted at the sweeping changes the new administration has made including the dissolution of the equity and inclusion division, firing of staff in many areas, and especially the addition of John Gibbs who I specifically was relieved to see failed in his last attempt at office because of his misogynistic views. I read in an article that you all feel you are more in line now with the views of Ottawa County (with your absolutely ridiculous new tag line) I am here to say.. you do not represent me or my views. Shame on you for the way you have handled this. I, and many many other Ottawa Co residence would like to say "you don't belong here"
166	1/6/2023 11:33	Rick Brown	Yes	Holland Charter Township	New Administration	Let the shit show begin. For the first time in my life I am embarrassed to be a resident of Ottawa co. This group is a disgrace to every reasonable resident of this co. You may think you have a mandate but when people realize what they got there will be a rebellion.
167	1/6/2023 11:33	Steve Wood	Yes	Spring Lake Village	John Gibbs	John, we are so glad to have you in Ottawa County! Lead on my friend!
168	1/6/2023 11:33	Jason Zuidema	Yes	Robinson Township	Disappointment	Mr. John Gibbs, Please do not attempt to email me or request my support through Ottawa County. I am very disappointed with you and your PAC's behavior and actions when joining the board of Ottawa County. You did not even attempt to work with the people that were put in office ahead of you. Instead you chose to simply fire them and declare yourselves victors as well as dissolve a much needed resource in the diversity and inclusion arena. It is apparent that you and your constituents are not interested in working together with all different opinions and viewpoints, which is not what government is about. Although I will obey the authority placed over me as I have been called to do, I will simply pray that relations improve and that the authority demonstrates a willingness and ability to work with those of differing viewpoints, opinions, beliefs, etc. Thank you.
169	1/6/2023 11:34	Steve Eckert	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Deep concern about your hiring and your residency	To my knowledge you have never lived in West Michigan and Ottawa County in particular. That combined with your previous writings about the role of women in our society are troubling. The "board" who hired you did so with inadequate vetting and perhaps criminal neglect. I would suggest you resign immediately.

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170	1/6/2023 11:34	Laurie BraunShook	Yes	Grand Haven City	John Gibbs	John Gibbs is the last person I want representing me and my interests! And how you went about voting him in was very wrong, the people of this county should have been told of what you were up to! Start working for the people and not your own interests!
171	1/6/2023 11:34	Lynn Smith	Yes	Holland City	Please act for the majority, not loud minority	Most of us are already concerned about your ability to lead. We believe that you're more interested in breaking, not building, community cohesiveness. You seem to want minority rule...and you'll soon find out that Ottawa County will not tolerate anything other than "the will of the majority". Your first meeting lacked transparency, decency, and the mature judgement necessary to lead. Your first actions lacked the temperance necessary to inspire others to follow you. I pray that you collectively have the humility and capacity to learn.
172	1/6/2023 11:35	Richard Cole	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Junk communications	Please remove me from your distribution list.
173	1/6/2023 11:35	Paige Evenhouse	Yes	Holland City	Yâ€™all need to slow your role!	I am embarrassed to live here. I am outraged at what happened. John Gibbs donâ€™t show your face in Holland. WE DONT WANT YOU HERE!
174	1/6/2023 11:35	Matthew Stone	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Not happy in the recent changes	I am not happy that the county axed the DEI and am completely appalled that the board has devoted itself to moving far right in politics. Unacceptable. Also, please don't have John Gibbs ever email me again. If county government has correspondence that needs to be sent via email, have it come from the board or the clerk.  We need fairness and equality instilled in every portion of our government and local government should be leading the way. We do not need to move backward.
175	1/6/2023 11:35	Marguerite Seymour	Yes	Holland City	Concern	So far, the actions of the Ottawa Impact group have been disturbing. Do we have â€œwolves in sheepâ€™s clothingâ€? Unbelievable that you would even think to support someone who does not have a real basic science background nor the requisite experience to head the health department. So far, you take those of us who can read to be fools. You can do better, but I donâ€™t hold out much hope. Ottawa County has been a haven in Michigan and the actions are indicative of a group that seeks to destroy the good in search of some crazy â€œfreedomâ€ initiative. Trump is gone! Letâ€™s not try to resurrect the unhinged!
176	1/6/2023 11:36	Eric Johnson	Yes	Park Township	welcome to John Gibbs	I feel fortunate and honored to have John Gibbs working for us as County Administrator. Welcome, John.
177	1/6/2023 11:37	Joseph Skendzel	Yes	Grand Haven City	New County Administration	Mr Gibbs, we did not vote for you as our representative and do not endorse your appointment as County Administrator. The means and the lack of communication regarding the dismissal of Mr. Shea was secretly determined without notification. You do not have any knowledge of our county and the issues. The Ottawa Impact â€œgangâ€ will lead to your demise and certainly not help any prospects for your future.
178	1/6/2023 11:37	Ned Brause	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Thanks	Thank you, John Gibbs, for sending out the note, and congratulations on your new position. Best of luck to you
179	1/6/2023 11:38	Vickey Parker	Yes	Coopersville City	Why are we bringing this outsider?	I can't understand why we would bring this outsider to Ottawa county. He lost his bid for Michigan and he is trying to do these illegally to control our county.
180	1/6/2023 11:40	Dan Walcott	Yes	Holland City	Ottawa county and Ottawa Impact	I want to be on the record, that the Ottawa impact group does not represent me. I also want people to know they do not represent the brand of Christianity that I follow. I was at one of their meetings where there was a host of half truths and outright lies. Please represent all residence not just the far fringe. The actions of this new board of commissions seem hateful and hurtful to people of color, I object to that.
181	1/6/2023 11:40	Thomas Wood	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Disappointed and disapprove	I am beyond upset about the heavy handed actions by the new board. They completely blindsided the county and ignored transparency. Ottawa Impact does not accurately represent the people. I do not support the appointment of John Gibbs who was defeated by the people!
182	1/6/2023 11:40	Laura Draeger	Yes	Spring Lake Township	new board members	I am shocked and disappointed that the new Board is committed to throwing away the progress our county has made over the last 50 years. Eliminating the Office of DEI is a mistake. The message being sent is not acceptable. Everyone belongs here and should be welcome.  What did Mr. Shay do that warranted his being removed from office? Aren't there procedures in place that call for meetings and business to be conducted publicly? I do not believe the commitment the new board members have made to follow the so-called principles of Ottawa Impact is aligned with the oath of office for the county board they all took this week.

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183	1/6/2023 11:40	Amy Grout	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Inappropriate Board Actions	I want to understand who will be funding the changes that the board made at the last meeting. This is a gross mismanagement of our tax dollars. I am so grossly disappointed in the actions of the board. I would like a financial impact report provided at the next meeting and made public.
184	1/6/2023 11:41	Mick Zinsli	Yes	Georgetown Township	Disappointment	I am not in favor, at all, in your political coupe. So much for our democratic process.
185	1/6/2023 11:42	Lynette Bush	Yes	Holland City	Diversity	This board's undermining if so many citizens of Ottawa county is appalling. We embrace Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and will be monitoring closely to assure that you display these qualities.
186	1/6/2023 11:43	Raymund Mears	Yes	Robinson Township	Administrator change	John Gibbs ran for public office and MI-03 residents rejected him. Installing him as a county administrator makes no sense - the public doesn't want him. Firing the former administrator to do so is an offensive act.
187	1/6/2023 11:43	Meagen Russ	Yes	Georgetown Township	Disgusted	The dastardly events that unfolded this week to put John Gibbs in power absolutely reek of scandalous behavior. For a party that continues to cry "socialism" about the Democratic Party, the calculated dissolution of the DEC and ousting the county commissioner and health official was furtive, scandalous, unjust, and displayed behavior all too familiar to people living in communist and dictatorship countries. I am absolutely disgusted and appalled that this occurred without the input of the people. Do you realize that north Ottawa county carried Governor Whitmer and President Biden? Thankfully, 30% of this county votes Democrat. My only hope remains that after these appalling events, more people will turn away from the Republican Party and stand firm for the DEMOCRATIC values and constitutional government on which this country was founded. Our forefathers are surely rolling over in their graves.
188	1/6/2023 11:44	David Aniszko	Yes	Georgetown Township	Mr Gibbs	I am very happy that Mr Gibbs agreed to serve in our county. His history, faith, and demeanor has provided me with confidence that he will serve us well.
189	1/6/2023 11:44	Charles W Fletcher	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Representation!	I applaud the county for their recent moves, including the addition of John Gibbs, to reflect the values of the majority of the people in Ottawa county.  Thank you all and keep up the great work in being true representative of the people in our county.  Sincerely, Chuck Fletcher
190	1/6/2023 11:45	June Lynn Pier Fitzgerald	Yes	Holland City	Firing and replacing the County Administrator	Mr Gibbs does have a fine resume. However, I protest the method by which he was fired. What were the reasons? What was the evidence that he was not functioning well in the job? Plus, is there not a law which requires a public interview of the new would be hire?? Did I miss the notice of such an interview? Even if Mr Gibbs is qualified, why not engage in a fully public process? The implication is that you, the commissioners, are hiding something. It makes it difficult to trust him and those who voted for the firing and for the replacement. To quote others: Where is the transparency?
191	1/6/2023 11:46	Pam Taylor	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Commission Actions	I do not feel you are representing the values of Ottawa County. Where is your compassion? Why are you only concerned w white people getting jobs? You are out of step in the year 2023. Why are you firings public health director that cared about science & protecting people. And finally I do not approve of a county commissioner who is not from this area. His appointment reeks of strictly political patronage.
192	1/6/2023 11:46	Gary Rahn	Yes	Holland City	Reaction to new County Adminstratir	I am very pleased with the Commission's selection of John Gibbs as County Administrator. I look forward to seeing the County move in the direction and policy areas outlined!
193	1/6/2023 11:47	Teresa White	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Congrats!	Disappointed in the direction the new regime is taking. Horrified to find that John Gibbs is put in my Ottawa County after NOT voting for him.  Teresa White
194	1/6/2023 11:47	Jonathan Brownson	Yes	Holland City	appreciation for greetings from Administrator	I appreciated the greetings sent out by our new administrator and hearing about his personal history.
195	1/6/2023 11:48	Lauren Heyboer	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Change	I disappointed that the Diversity committee was disbanded. This seems to be a very backward move for Ottawa County. Also, based on news reports, I'm very concerned that the new makeup of the Ottawa County Board is only interested in representing a minority of Ottawa County residents. This is very concerning. I will be following the Board's actions in the sincere hope that they prove me wrong. I do not believe in the pact that most signed before the election & find it to be discriminatory and not in the interest of all of Ottawa County's residents.

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						I was dismayed to learn of the action taken by the Ottawa county board of commissioners at their first meeting of the year. The under-handed way in which administrator Shay was dismissed and replaced, the DEI office dismantled, and the health officer replaced shows the true nature of Ottawa Impact members- self-serving and power-hungry. As a taxpayer, the \$300,000 in taxpayer costs for the firing of honest and hard-working individuals is infuriating. As a Christian, I am dismayed to see references to the Christian faith being used to back up Ottawa Impact's nationalist, self-serving interests. I implore board members to act as servant-leaders moving forward, to familiarize yourself with the issues facing the "least of these" in our community and to truly seek the flourishing of all in Ottawa county.
196	1/6/2023 11:48	Laura Baer	Yes	Holland City	Dismay	
197	1/6/2023 11:48	Philip DENOTTO	Yes	Zeeland City	New administration	You and your views are not welcome. Politically appointed cronies are not good government.
198	1/6/2023 11:48	VanHeck	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Disgusting	Ottawa Impact is disgusting. I am a follower of Christ and for you to think you are doing His work is GROSS. You're a bunch of racist, homophobic, white privileged, POS. I can't wait to recall you all in 6 months.
199	1/6/2023 11:49	Janet Joiner	Yes	Ferrysburg City	John Gibbs Appointment	I appreciated Mr. Gibbs introduction and comments. However, inasmuch as his appointment was not on the agenda, I consider his appointment invalid due to a violation of the Open Meetings Act.
200	1/6/2023 11:50	Brandy Pyk	Yes	Holland City	Jan 3rd board meeting	I wanted to express my disappointment and dissatisfaction of the lack of moral and ethical behavior that was portrayed at the Jan board meeting. This board does not represent who we are as a community.
201	1/6/2023 11:50	Elizabeth McEwen	No		A New Direction for Ottawa County	As an individual who does business in Ottawa County, I was very disappointed to hear of the dismissal of the DEI office. At the recent DEI Symposium event, I was encouraged to see the work being done to capitalize on the HUMAN resources that Ottawa County has, which included helping workplaces become accessible to those who don't use English as a first language. As so many area businesses and industries are absolutely screaming for help, and unemployment rates so low, the DEI office was an integral part of helping bridge that gap for the benefit of both the individual workers AND the businesses/industries in need of help. It is no secret that the agricultural work in Ottawa County is a magnet for migrant workers, looking to provide the American Dream for their families. "Where you belong" was actually true, for ALL in Ottawa County. The dismissal of the DEI office and changing of the County motto leave me, as a business owner, wondering for whom freedom ACTUALLY rings without the necessary and beneficial attention to diversity, equity and inclusion.
202	1/6/2023 11:51	Ellie Williams	Yes	Spring Lake Village	DEI	The new Board of Commissioners needs to reinstate the Ottawa County DEI department. The Board members ALL need to take IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING.
203	1/6/2023 11:52	Joseph Lutz	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Radical shift	I am appalled by the radical changes implemented by the new county commissioners. I look forward to voting in the recall election as soon as it can be arranged. Hoping damage to our communities can be minimized prior to removing the radical new commissioners. The loss of experienced leadership is disheartening, but I hope we can return to a stable and peaceful future once the radicals are removed from the commission.
204	1/6/2023 11:52	Kathy and Dean Miedema	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Recent firing and hiring of commissioners	We are very disturbed and extremely disappointed that John Gibbs is the new administrator. Additionally, the firing of fine commissioners and the DEI is simply dispicable! Underhanded and no transparency, a power play that should never have happened! Also did not see any woman newly elected commissioner, and VERY upset the motto was changed!
205	1/6/2023 11:53	Jen Miller	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Unprofessional and Extreme	I'm very disappointed with the new Board members' actions to replace the administrator, the health director, and the counsel. I'm very disappointed in the change to the motto. I'm extremely disappointed that you dismantled the DEI office! I was very supportive of the direction Ottawa County was taking before these changes. Your decisions do not represent my interests or priorities at all. The way you handled Tuesday's meeting was extremely unprofessional and reinforces all of my apprehension about how you would behave. Please reinstate the DEI office immediately. Please change the motto back. Please do not change counsel. Please rehire John Shay. Please reinstate Adeline Hambley. Your extremism is not representative of the best that Ottawa County strives for.
206	1/6/2023 11:54	Julie Hallauer	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Where's the democratic process???	You should all be ashamed of yourselves. Where is the due process? We didn't want him in congress what make anyone think he can do the job much less deserves it handed to him for no good reason? I don't want that conservative, sexist, divisive mentality in my county!

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207	1/6/2023 11:54	Mark Ellis	No		E mail from Gibbs	I was horrified, when I saw the action that the Ottawa county board of commissioners took. You fired somebody and installed somebody else. You disbanded an important department and changed the county motto. I am only responding because I got an email from Mr. Gibbs. Why would he send me an email? I don't even live in Ottawa County, thank God. Your actions are horrible. During the summertime, I spend a lot of time at the lake shore, and in Ottawa County, as I am retired. I will not be spending any money in Ottawa County anymore. I will be going to Muskegon County and frequenting Allegan county more. You need to reconsider the disgusting actions you have taken. I know the attorney general is investigating your actions and I hope she can take action against you. I hope businesses that wanna relocate to your county will see that you have become quite backward in your thinking. Most businesses are progressive right now and they do not want to locate in an area that is backward. Look at the history and see what has happened to other areas that have done the things you are doing.
208	1/6/2023 11:56	Leah Williams	Yes	Holland City	DEI	I am appalled and devastated the you have dissolved the DEI committee. This is a huge step backwards and I am truly scared for the future of Ottawa County.
209	1/6/2023 11:56	Floyd Siegfried	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	John Gibbs	What a insult to Ottawa County for hiring someone like John Gibbs.
210	1/6/2023 11:56	Harry F Coffill	No		Concerns	<p>Although I don't currently reside in Ottawa County, my family owns property there.</p> <p>I'm quite concerned about the apparent rapidity and lack of transparency in current changes in O.C. governance--prominently the change in the county motto from "Where You Belong" with the suggestion that it "promotes the divisive...ideology of the Race Equity movement."</p> <p>I'm wondering if anyone can share which of the current board does not believe that races are equal, or could possibly let me know which Americans "Don't Belong" in Ottawa County.</p> <p>Also, could you define what "Freedoms" are currently ringing in Ottawa that were not before they took office? Is it the freedom to hold closed door meetings and votes with no input from the community in a reckless, offensive, UnAmerican and un-democratic ways?</p> <p>Public forums are a thing. And required by law.</p>
211	1/6/2023 11:57	Sarah Milano	Yes	Blendon Township	Dignity of Board	<p>As a tax payer, constituent, and resident of Ottawa County, I do not support the behavior of the Commissioners in the hiring of John Gibbs, firing of John Shay and Lisa Stefanovsky, and dissolving the DEI office.</p> <p>The Commissioners are supposed to be representatives of the entire county population and this brash move without public notice is undoubtedly a shame to American democracy.</p>
212	1/6/2023 11:57	Amy Stringham	Yes	Robinson Township	Concerned & Disappointed	<p>I am deeply concerned and highly disappointed in the actions of the County Commissioners at their first meeting. You ran on a platform of transparency, yet everything you've done so far is the exact opposite.</p> <p>Ideological differences aside, your "behind the scenes" back door dealings are not welcome here.</p> <p>Your actions will have negative consequences for the property values of Ottawa County, and businesses will think twice about bringing tax revenues to our county under leadership obviously dedicated to their own power trip and not to the vision of growing our county into a collection of communities where EVERYONE belongs.</p>
213	1/6/2023 11:57	Ann M Weller	Yes	Holland City	Separation of church and state	While it's good to know more about your background, I do not appreciate your use of religious language or request for prayers. This is a county that includes more than Christian believers.
214	1/6/2023 11:57	Karl Van Oostenbrugge	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Congratulations	John, Great to see you involved in Ottawa County. Wish you were in the governors seat instead but glad you are involved with Ottawa County
215	1/6/2023 11:58	Democrat	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Vote the new board out in 2024	Gibbs and this new board are disgusting...

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						In our current political environment with corruption, misinformation and out right dishonesty why was there no transparency in the Ottawa County Administrator selection process. Do we know that Mr. Gibbs was the best candidate for this position? Did the position get posted nationwide and other candidates interviewed and considered? What was the selection process? Why was this important decision slipped into the board meeting agenda at the last minute? Did the board/ commissioners forget who they work for? Perhaps Mr. Gibbs losing his recent Senate bid should have sent a message to our commissioners that he is not a desirable candidate. I sense that there will be legal action in your future as well as recall efforts. Shame on your actions and now your total loss of credibility. Ottawa County is better than this. I speak for many.
216	1/6/2023 11:58	Robert Carlson	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Selection process	
217	1/6/2023 11:58	Diane Hansen	Yes	Zeeland City	Greetings	Just want to wish you a New Year, congratulations and best wishes on the new term.
						It is shocking and and abhorrent in the underhanded manner in which County Administrator Shay was fired and replaced by Gibbs. The secretive, shameful and most likely illegal actions carried out by the newly elected board of commissioners are a blight on West Michigan.
218	1/6/2023 11:59	Laura Judge	No		Firing/hiring of County Administrator	
						Mr. Gibbs,  Received your "greetings" email and wanted to reach out as a husband, father of 6, and local business owner to say I am pleased and excited about the changes coming for Ottawa County. We are a wonderful Christian community that is diverse, friendly, warm, and welcoming and I am excited to see Christian leadership on the board and look forward to watching what happens next!  We love our community and want to see it remain, and in some ways return, to being a shining light of God's love, a melting pot for all people, and an example of success for the rest of the counties in Michigan.  Praying for wisdom for all of you and the courage needed to take on the tough challenges ahead.  Let's go!!!!  God Bless, The Spencer Family and the team at Sharp Construction, LLC
219	1/6/2023 11:59	Ryan Spencer	Yes	Holland City	A Bright Future for Ottawa County	
220	1/6/2023 11:59	Brenda Amaya	Yes	Spring Lake Township	intro letter from John	Enjoy it while it lasts..... you and Ol are an embarrassment to humanity.
221	1/6/2023 11:59	Susan Tillard	Yes	Park Township	John Gibbs	Welcome! Your credentials are impressive. We are privileged to have you serving in Ottawa county.
						I was shocked by the Hire of John Gibbs, John is an trump acolyte who supported trump in the Insurrection against our country. To hire this highly political individual is a CLEAR sign as to the intentions of the County to obstruct the will of the people in future elections.
222	1/6/2023 12:00	Charles Patrick	Yes	Blendon Township	John Gibbs	I will be looking for and supporting any efforts to end the employment of John Gibbs.
						I am a registered Republican who is disappointed and concerned with the Might Makes Right mentality of the current Republican movement. I am waiting for leaders to display love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Unfortunately, what I've seen over the last few years are displays of hate, anger, violence, rash decisions, plotting, scheming, collusion, greed and false conspiracies. Ottawa County Board, please be humble servants of the people and govern with wisdom. Speak truth in love and clothe your actions with compassion.
223	1/6/2023 12:00	Chad Gibbs	Yes	Georgetown Township	Where is the love?	
						I was devastated when Ottawa Impact won our county, and again when they turned the whole board upside down with no warning. Please make sure you are making decisions based on everyone you represent. We are a nation of freedom of religion. You cannot use your own religious beliefs to dictate policy on a whole community. I am happy that everyone is allowed to worship however they want. Do not make me or anyone else live by YOUR personal beliefs!
224	1/6/2023 12:00	Jennifer Abraham	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Inclusivity	
225	1/6/2023 12:01	Aprille Marsh	Yes	Jamestown Charter Township	Boo	I didn't vote for you and I hope the the Secretary of State finds what you did was illegal.
226	1/6/2023 12:01	Roger Glass	Yes	Robinson Township	Residency	I find it interesting that someone who has never lived in Ottawa Co is running it ...shame!

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227	1/6/2023 12:01	Catherine Molloseau	Yes	Georgetown Township	Concern about the recent changes	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am a resident of Ottawa County and am extremely frustrated with this week's rapid changes to our administrative staff and county "motto". Like Rebekah Curran, my district's new commissioner, I feel completely blindsided by the decisions that were made. It does not feel like it was done in good conscience, rather as a way to assert some "new" direction that certain people feel that our county supports. I also feel that the decisions made were based on misinformation and overall misinformed individuals. These individuals need to think more about representing all residents of our county not just those that support their own agendas. As someone that has completed multiple professional training sessions in DEI, I recognize the importance of this work and have seen positive changes in how I approach my own work. I am surprised at how many individuals in leadership positions have not embraced the positive impact of creating inclusive communities. Maybe that needs to be part of our motto.</p> <p>Also, there is a grammar mistake in John Gibbs' welcome statement.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Catherine</p>
228	1/6/2023 12:02	Michelle Heitman	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Opposed to the direction of the newly elected board	<p>I am appalled by the decisions made by the newly elected Ottawa County Board members. Shame on you for your lack of transparency and integrity in leading. You are not representing my values. Remember your job is to be open minded, transparent ask questions and educate yourselves on issues. At this time you appear to have cost Ottawa County tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars and created deep division within the county.</p> <p>Michelle Heitman</p>
229	1/6/2023 12:02	Janice Buckley	Yes	Park Township	Process of placing a new county director	<p>Is Gibbs a resident of Ottawa county? I feel the process of placing him as our director was underhanded. I have concerns about the leadership of our country board and the methods they are using to administer policies.</p>
230	1/6/2023 12:02	Lilian Mears	Yes	Robinson Township	Disappointed but not surprised	<p>Put simply, the decisions by the Board are frightening. Their statements are steeped in ideological language and dog whistles, and they do not provide much reasoning as to how these changes will substantively impact residents of the county. This is a political move designed to consolidate power and appease an extreme element of the local population at the expense of everyone else. It's viscerally exhausting to follow politics these days, because people on both sides of the aisle continue to flex their power in displays like these rather than actually working to improve the situation of their constituents. Ottawa Impact, the group responsible for the election of eight members of the eleven-member Board in November 2022, frightens me. Their rhetoric uses buzzwords like "family" and "community" to disguise a concerning disrespect for differing opinions. And then we have this group of individuals backed by a large PAC take control of the board and make these sweeping decisions, which were not all mentioned by their campaign platforms, and install even more people associated with Ottawa Impact into local government. Sure, that's how politics work – you either win or you lose, and if you win, you get to do what you want – but everyone should be vigilant. These people were elected to office through making sweeping promises, and now they're going off-script. Good people, our friends and neighbors, who have given their time and energy to serving the people of this county for years, lost their jobs to this ideological purge. Frankly, this is concerning.</p> <p>And now I'm leaving a comment with the same county government that made these changes, providing them with my name, address, and residency status in order to even be permitted to write a comment. Doesn't that seem worrisome? Am I going to be put on a list?</p> <p>These are the questions we need to ask ourselves. This situation is frightening. I'm frightened. Democracy isn't meant to be a game of Monopoly, where you scabble for any ground you can gain and then stake your claim so nobody else can have it. It's a process, a conversation between people with differing viewpoints to come to a mutually acceptable solution. What the Board has done here spits in the face of that tradition of compromise.</p>
231	1/6/2023 12:02	Eric Kipker	Yes	Park Township	You are a joke!!!	<p>Why in the world are you doing here you don't believe in a democracy. So you worked in the Trump administration with all the bottom feeders.</p>

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232	1/6/2023 12:03	Gary Fisher	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Thanks and Congratulations	My wife and I want to thank the Commission for the appointment of John Gibbs as our new County Administrator. Mr. Gibbs' skills and experience far overqualify him for the job and we are thankful that he was willing to serve our county in this way. We also thank the Commissioners for "hitting the ground running" and showing clear and strong leadership from the very first. While our beloved Michigan is suffering under unfortunate leadership and consequent economic conditions, we are confident Ottawa County will be a guiding light to those around us.
233	1/6/2023 12:06	Margo Zeedyk	No		Disappointed by your actions	Why am I receiving an email from the Ottawa County administrator? Thankfully I do not live in Ottawa County, where chaos has taken over. I do not support your subversive actions taken in your first meeting in January, and would be embarrassed to be represented by such a non-transparent board.
234	1/6/2023 12:07	David Ellis	Yes	Holland City	Feedback	The recent election of Ottawa Impact candidates and their subsequent behavior at their first official board meeting is an embarrassment to the county.  I feel we have stepped back in time over 50 years.  The fear mongering and division created by in-informed, single issue politics is repulsive.  We deserve better.
235	1/6/2023 12:07	Jack Barber	Yes	Georgetown Township	Recent changes	What you did was deceitful and underhanded. If someone presents a petition to have all who voted for this change recalled I will be the first in line to sign it. I have been a Republican all my life and you are just a continuing threat to force a lot of us to change our alliance.
236	1/6/2023 12:07	Short Donald	Yes	Park Township	Gibbs	One can only hope the attorney general exposes the stink that is here in all these appointments, yours especially. I believe the citizens of OC want transparency
237	1/6/2023 12:08	Zach VanSetters	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Ottawa County Administrator	My family and I are extremely disappointed regarding the recent transactions approved by the new "leaders" of Ottawa County. This is embarrassing and unacceptable, period.  On top of the agenda items being secretly added, the appointment of John Gibbs is horrendous and unacceptable. His personal and professional background does not align to the core beliefs and values of this growing community. Instead, it sets this community back years and most likely will lead to business leaving or deterring new local businesses from joining the community.  We are a growing family and if the housing market wasn't in shambles I, we would look to move ASAP.  These actions are exactly why people do not trust nor believe that community "leaders" have their best interests at hand.
238	1/6/2023 12:08	Ronald Kempker	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Comment	Thanks for coming to Ottawa County. You have my full support. I know you will do a great job.
239	1/6/2023 12:08	Cynthia Timmerman	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	Objection	You lost all credibility when you agreed to the subterfuge of this new extreme board. The only good thing about what happened is that the silent are now awake and getting active.
240	1/6/2023 12:08	Randy Richardson	Yes	Park Township	New Board Members	I am very disappointed with what transpired at your last meeting. Nothing was discussed with the constituents. I believe a lot of us feel blind sided. This is not a great way to start your term in office. Had there been an opportunity for the public to have input before this was done it would have been much better.
241	1/6/2023 12:09	Amy Hamman	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	John Gibbs appointment	I'm appalled at the appointment of John Gibbs as the Ottawa County Administrator. First off, he isn't even a resident of Ottawa County and now this new insane board decides to plunk him into our county government. Anyone who supports the Big Lie just tells me that they aren't to be trusted, as either he's a moron to believe it, or he is just going along with this falsehood to further his personal gain, demonstrating poor character. I also feel the underhanded actions of this new board have been less than transparent and just blatantly showed a lack of regard of ALL constituents of Ottawa County. I protest his appointment and will actively work to have this board held accountable.

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242	1/6/2023 12:09	Janice VanDrunen	Yes	Hudsonville City	Changes	Very disappointed in what transpired and the changes that were made to the commission. John Gibbs is the last person I would ever want as part of our county council. What a sneaky way I get him into office. I can't believe what happened on Tuesday. I think the entire commission needs to be recalled. When we moved here a few years ago I was told this was a caring Christian community. From what I've seen it's a very selfish elitist community of cowboys!
243	1/6/2023 12:09	Roger Cox	Yes	Ferrysburg City	John Gibbs	Shame on you! You do not represent me!
244	1/6/2023 12:10	Goris Passchier	Yes	Georgetown Township	Commissioners actions and John Gibbs	There is no way I support John Gibbs and the new board. Your actions are archaic and divisive.  Hopefully the silent majority will save this county from your very destructive actions.
245	1/6/2023 12:10	Bob Davis	Yes	Georgetown Township	Recent board decisions	As a resident in Ottawa County for over 30 years, I find it appalling that the newly elected board would make a decision to replace personnel and offices around radical partisan lines and hire a new administrator who doesn't even live in the county. This does not reflect the otherwise balanced decisions that the board has made in my experience here. This was no doubt a coup by Ottawa Impact and we will rue the day and consequences of these decisions for a while to comeWay to put a stain on an otherwise beautiful and faithful county that we live in. Thank you for your time.
246	1/6/2023 12:12	Susanne Jordan	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners	The undemocratic antics of the new Board of Commissioners at their first January meeting was a betrayal of their campaign promise of transparency. It was also a betrayal of the new motto they adopted, "where freedom rings". Please be reminded that freedom in this country extends to everyone, not just the conservative Christian community that the new commissioners represent. You brought shame on the good reputation of Ottawa County.
247	1/6/2023 12:12	Richard Temple	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Transfer of leadership	The transfer of administrator leadership is a disgrace and reflects a misuse of public policy.
248	1/6/2023 12:12	John Vlieger	Yes	Georgetown Township	Our new board	This is an embarrassment the way the new board is handling their business, i've always appreciated that Ottawa county is a fiscally conservative, family based community, but the way this new board is starting out is a total embarrassment to me. I've never voted for democrats on the local level in my life but I guarantee I will be in our next elections. For now I guess I'm stuck with this lot, unless our Jenison school board goes in this radical direction and we move to another school district outside of Ottawa county. Whatever happened to the views of our greatest generation that the needs of the many sometimes outweigh the needs of a selfish few? I was hoping we're finally to the point where I wouldn't feel shame for being a Republican, but I guess that's not the case.
249	1/6/2023 12:12	Arlin feenstra	Yes	Georgetown Township	Comment	Looks like we a great and overly qualified person to do the job. Plus he is a conservative.
250	1/6/2023 12:13	Brock Rodgers	Yes	Robinson Township	Residency	I believe a county administrator should live in the community they are governing to be qualified for the position. Where we belong.
251	1/6/2023 12:13	Mateo Mancilla	Yes	Robinson Township	Sudden change of county administrator	You hired the loser from the 3rd congressional district, obviously we the people did not want him to represent us, now we're forced to have him be the county administrator. Doesn't sound like freedom reign, here.
252	1/6/2023 12:14	Gayla Powers	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Recent Changes	I am totally against the actions that the County Board has taken at the last board meeting. Talk about transparency, this was anything but transparency. I will remember this come elections and can not wait until then. What a scam!!!
253	1/6/2023 12:15	Bob Dicks	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Sign in my yard for a different office.	Congratulations John, I hope you will serve as greatly as I was hoping you would for the other office. We need to move forward with an America first agenda please. Sincerely Thank you, Bob Dicks
254	1/6/2023 12:19	Benjamin Russ	Yes	Georgetown Township	Hostile takeover	Why do I feel that neither democracy nor the good people of Ottawa County were properly represented here? I adamantly oppose the recent hirings and the seemingly irresponsible hijacking of the county admin by Ottawa Impact. No one party, group affiliation or special interest groups should dominate a local county government, let alone hold a semi private meeting and pick candidates at will with little to no vetting. I am glad to see the AG getting involved. As a fellow Republican, I am appalled and greatly concerned as this was gross negligence, let alone the questionable credentials of the proposed health director. It's all about the money then, right? Just wait until OC's AAA rating is ruined as a result.

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255	1/6/2023 12:21	Jackie Anderson	Yes	Holland City	Motto change and dissolving office of D,E,I	<p>I was shocked to hear that a new county Administrator was announced. This new board had jumped in to make drastic changes that I'm sure many of your constituents do not approve.</p> <p>Firstly, dissolving the Office of Diversity ,Equity and Inclusion is a non-starter. It seems to me that dissolving this office is the opposite of what our county hopes to achieve. As an Ottawa County resident, I want our community to be inclusive and welcoming to all. You are destroying the progress that has been made and doing it hidden behind closed doors.</p> <p>I don't understand the change to our motto. This change seems to be made on the whims of a few and does not speak to the majority of our residents in Ottawa County. If a change was needed perhaps there could have been a community effort in deciding the language and word choices. I for one, like "Where you Belong" However, with these changes maybe Ottawa County is not a place that people want to belong anymore. I am so disappointed in how this commission has begun and it makes me fearful to see what other changes lie ahead.</p> <p>When I received this update text in my phone I felt I had to respond. Please forgive any errors in my text.</p>
256	1/6/2023 12:21	Steven Westdorp	Yes	Robinson Township	Reply to email of county administrator	<p>That is an impressive resume . It's so sad you failed to mention that you are a follower of Donald Trump; a man who has spent his whole life lying, cheating, stealing and being a sexual predator.</p> <p>We would not even have a democracy if he had had his way in the last election.</p>
257	1/6/2023 12:21	Jerry Emelander	Yes	Hudsonville City	Recent board changes	<p>Recently there has been a number of changes on the board. These changes are costing Ottawa county significant changes. Before going forward, I think an explanation and complete understanding is required.</p>
258	1/6/2023 12:22	Pettinga Jayne	Yes	Zeeland City	Ottawa County Health Officer	<p>The appointment of a health officer who displays appalling ignorance of public health safety in subservience to political influence is evidence of incompetent leadership.</p> <p>Jayne Pettinga, MSN, APNP</p>
259	1/6/2023 12:23	Barb Oseland	Yes	Holland City	Disgusted	<p>As a 33 year resident I am disgusted by your underhanded actions. Is that the only way you can get what you want? I taught young children for years and I'm sure even 8 year olds would say your behavior was cheating. John Gibbs, even Betsy's money couldn't get you what your backers wanted so you sneak through a back door and act like a pompous ass; what a bunch of hypocritical "Christians" Oh, and good job making Ottawa County part of the national news. Right up there with the Patmos Library haters.</p>
260	1/6/2023 12:24	G A Halsted	Yes	Grand Haven City	Appointment of John Gibbs	<p>I have nothing against John Gibbs rather the behind the scene secret pre-planning of individuals to exclude any timely public notice. More disgrace to the board if there wasn't enough time to include the firing and Mr. Gibbs appointment to the agenda. It seems Mr. Gibbs popped up without warning, but inside planning, guided by a hidden benefactor who is so driven to establish him in a political position of power. Again, it speaks of a secret agenda so John Gibbs (by hell or high water) can get better known and attain a more powerful position in the future. My first reaction on hearing his appointment (after he lost his congressional bid) was "this smells" and is blatantly helping to destroy our Democracy! Just who recommended and just as important organized this plot to fire and appoint Mr. Gibbs? I believe all of you should resign for the way this process unfolded and the plotting to "Win" at all costs!</p>

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261	1/6/2023 12:24	Jane MacPherson	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Governing and Recent "hires"	To the new "Board of Commissioners", What a disappointment...so much for transparency. Much cronyism involved in your latest hires, too with positions not posted for application nor any opportunity for public comment. While John Gibbs may be a capable candidate, ramming him down our throats is no way to endear him to the community. As regards, Nathaniel Kelly, he is completely unqualified to lead the Ottawa County Department of Public Health. He lacks training and experience in medical public health issues. His "expertise" by work experience seems to be quality control for HVAC companies and other manufacturing firms. I, personally, doubt he actually obtained a Masters in Public Health, but even if he did, that degree was issued by a one of lowest ranked post graduate schools in the US! (And we don't even know his ranking in that class). Mr. Kelly is not the kind of high quality candidate the citizens of Ottawa County expect to keep them healthy and safe. Furthermore, he lacks the character one would expect of someone in such a responsible position, disparaging and mocking people with disabilities. I hope the Michigan Department of Health refuses to accept him in this position. If this is the new governing style by our Board of Commissioners then clearly you are not going to heed your oath of office to serve ALL residents of Ottawa County...not just the few thousand that got each of you thru the primaries. Jane MacPherson MD
262	1/6/2023 12:25	Kari Formsma	Yes	Georgetown Township	Process in hiring	Could you describe the process for selecting new key employees like the County Administrator and Health Department leader ? When was the position posted? How many people applied? How were they vetted? How many were interviewed? When were the public allowed to have given their comments? The press is making this out to be a secretive process , which is hard for me to believe given the commitment of the current board to transparency and doing the people â€ˆs will. Iâ€™m looking for the truth given all the negative comments I am hearing so can support the County Board.
263	1/6/2023 12:26	Colleen McCarthy	Yes	Crockery Township	Election	I am so disappointed on how this whole change was enforced. You all went behind our backs & took away people & freedoms our county has had for years. You all are acting like Donald Trump & that is scary for the residents of Ottawa County & our nation. There were 2 people connected with Trump, Gibbs & Dixon that lost their elections, but your still going to elbow your way in, no matter what. I hope the Attorney General has the authority to over turn all of these elections. Shame on you!!!!
264	1/6/2023 12:26	Jennifer JermalowiczJones	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Welcome John Gibbs	I am so happy that John Gibbs will be leading our county. We need to bring back traditional values to our county. His Christian background and education will certainly be an asset.
265	1/6/2023 12:27	Gregory Watkins	Yes	Georgetown Township	New county	Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones Congratulations on your successful coup, I can't wait to vote you good old boys out of office.
266	1/6/2023 12:27	Mary A	No		Insanity	Please take me off your mailing list, 40+ year resident of Ottawa County, so relieved I no longer am if this is direction you are heading. Total insanity and everything we shouldnâ€™t be.
267	1/6/2023 12:28	Anita Hall Dokman	Yes	Park Township	Disapproval of OC Board actions	I am absolutely appalled by the appointment of John Gibbs, a proven election denier ,sexist degrader of women and womenâ€™s rights , and the appointment of the new health director who seems to be not only unqualified but quite frankly holds dangerously zealous , absurd fabricated false positions on medical issues like the Covid crisis , mask mandates and has a spouse who is an out of control self proclaimed anti mask crusader with a history of filing frivolous lawsuits and fabricated defamation claims . On the subject of abolishing the DEI department : I find it a blatant attempt of racism , misogyny , xenophobia and homophobia and I am disgusted and disappointed that some newly elected board members and officials voted for this abolition whilst running their election campaign on a very different platform ( read : supporting the DEI ) so they made a complete turnaround as to what the voters voted them in for â€ˆ! Shame on you ALL â€ˆ! , you are not worthy of those seats , you got voted in by lying and deceiving . Now we will just stand together and watch your every next action closely and make preparations and will recall all of you when you cross those lines again .
268	1/6/2023 12:28	Randell price	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	John Gibbs	What a great addition to our county administration. Excellent !!!
269	1/6/2023 12:31	Nancy Mulder	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Yoor residence	Why are you interested in Ottawa County when you don't even live here?
270	1/6/2023 12:32	Marcia Lengkeek	Yes	Park Township	New board	I am so disappointed on the changes the Ottawa county board made. You blind sided the citizens who voted in good faith in Nov. I do not support this move and will continue to work against it.

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271	1/6/2023 12:32	John D DeBlaay	Yes	Hudsonville City	First BOC Meeting	Thank you for standing up for the Residents of Ottawa County. We are truly blessed to have the Christian Conservative leadership you showed us, and unlike other Politicians you did exactly what you said you would do.  Thank you and God Bless
272	1/6/2023 12:33	Mary Hoogerhyde	Yes	Georgetown Township	Gibbs Residency	How long has Gibbs lived in Ottawa County? What is his pasr history with county management?  Thank you, Mary
273	1/6/2023 12:33	kara lemperman	Yes	Grand Haven City	response to changes.	As an Ottawa resident and employee at GHAPS I was completely disgusted at the results from the first meeting. First being the change of the motto, it does not represent who we are or who we want to be. Second, the appointment of N Kelly for head of the health dept. His character and lack of experience make him a laughing stock. Third, dismantling the DEI, as someone who works with LGBTQ youth youâ€™re out of touch with reality. Fourth, to make these changes while saying you are a christian is complete blasphemy. Youâ€™re bullyâ€™s, influenced by conspiracies and empowered by the least effective president we have had to date. I challenge churches to denounce your christian extreme views, as they know itâ€™s anything but biblical.
274	1/6/2023 12:38	Mike Torrey	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Mr. Gibbs	Iâ€™m interested in knowing if you plan on moving into Ottawa County to get to know those you serve better?
275	1/6/2023 12:39	Chris Cook	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Welcome John Gibbs	Welcome John, Thanks for the letter, I'm hoping we can get back to God ordained family values and faith driven values in Ottawa County
276	1/6/2023 12:40	Brad Elders	Yes	Hudsonville City	Transparency	Why were the details of Tuesdays meeting not public beforehand?
277	1/6/2023 12:47	Katy	Yes	Robinson Township	John Gibbs	Iâ€™m wondering why Ottawa County lets two employees go to hire John Gibbs without any feedback from the residents! Do we not have a say in who is fired and then compensated to stop any lawsuits! It seems this costs residents more in taxes to hire a misogynistic politician who lost his election and now wants to run Ottawa County without any input or objections from its residents. Republicans at their best!
278	1/6/2023 12:47	Debora McClellan	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Recent events/decisions by the Board	First of all, I am very disappointed and alarmed by the Board's decision to hire a misogynist/woman hater like John Gibbs to run the day to day operations of our beautiful county. John Gibbs has made it well known that he thinks women should not be allowed to vote or work, that we should remain at home "barefoot and pregnant" Why would you put something with those views in charge of the day to day operations, knowing that the county has many female employees. Second, disbanding the department of diversity??? What were you thinking? Who are these residents who think this is a good idea? Diversity isn't just about LGBTQ persons, its about those of different races, ethnicities, religions and abilities as well. Diversity includes those with disabilities being supported by programs that allow them to become independent, wage earning citizens. Would you have Mr. Gibbs put your disabled child in a group home because our county doesn't recognize this as diversity? My husband and I are so discouraged, disappointed and disgusted by the board's recent actions that we are looking to move out of Ottawa County to a county that supports all its citizens regardless of personally held beliefs. Your actions show that you are racist, sexist and truly prejudiced against anyone who is not white, straight, male, able minded and bodied. You need to prepare to lose a large portion of your tax base through manufacturers who believe in diversity and good Christian morals and values. True Christians believe that vengence is God's only and that we should treat all, regardless of their so-called sins, as we would like to be treated. You need to look deep into your heartless souls and ask yourself, are you living God's words and values? Would you like to be treated as a lesser being; as a non-human being?
279	1/6/2023 12:48	Ron Hannema	Yes	Grand Haven City	County Board	Iâ€™m appalled at the action that was taken in your first board meeting! The fact that you hired John Gibbs says it all about the direction youâ€™re taking the county. Keep your religious ideals out of government!!!
280	1/6/2023 12:49	Don and Darlene Dykstra	Yes	Georgetown Township	Congratulations John Gibbs	Hello John, We just wanted to offer our congratulations to you on being appointed as the new OC County Administrator. We're proud and excited to have you oversee our county's affairs and have FULL trust in your abilities, dedication and willingness to work FOR We the People. We are behind you all the way! Blessings to you as you take charge and begin the hard work that is necessary to return our voices. Thank you for being willing to serve our county, state and country in this position.

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281	1/6/2023 12:50	Anna Beird	Yes	Holland City	New Changes	I am upset and concerned that immediate changes were made such as hiring a new administrator, removing the diversity and inclusion department and changing the the county's motto. How disappointing it is to realize that the new commissioners do not care or bother to reflect on the well being of all the people if this county and only choose to push their own agendas. All it does is set another poor example to our children that when placed in charge, you just get to take everyone's toys in the sandbox and make your own rules with no regard for the humans playing along side of you.
282	1/6/2023 12:52	Donna Veldheer	Yes	Olive Township	Thankfulness	I am pleased beyond words that you have appointed John Gibbs as County Administrator. I just read his letter of introduction and how blessed we are to have him. We have been watching the Tuesday Commissioner Board meeting for two nights and cannot thank you enough for your strength and conviction. I especially loved seeing John take Shays nameplate down off the table. That was a hoot! I've sent emails to our commissioners a half dozen times, but they never responded to me personally. Always a response from the administrator or our clerk. I was thrilled when Allison emailed me back thanking me for praying for all of you! Keep up the great work and we are rooting for you.
283	1/6/2023 12:54	Janet Deboer	Yes	Park Township	New board members	I am promising to do all I can to recall Gretchen Cosby at our earliest opportunity. You do not represent me or any of my neighbors. It is shameful the way this process occurred. I totally disrespect John Gibbs. I am totally repulsed by the maga mentality you bring our our county Your choice of health department head is not only deplorable but dangerous to our community You have angered a great many of us. You will hear us roar
284	1/6/2023 12:54	Rhonda Klomparens	No		Freedom and transparency	Several of those newly elected to the board ran on a platform of increased transparency in Ottawa County. Their recent actions fly in the face of transparency. There is no freedom in a county in which the leaders make underhanded decisions, decisions made behind closed doors by those who seeking to promote personal, decisive agendas. Ottawa County is comprised of people with diverse backgrounds, experiences and opinions. This board was elected to represent the voices of ALL who live and work in Ottawa County. At first glance, they're not. Myself and many others are committed to ensuring Ottawa remains a county where EVERYONE's voice is heard and ALL are welcome. Let freedom ring, sure, but it must ring for ALL, not just a few middle class, white men. We STILL all belong!
285	1/6/2023 12:56	Joe Graham	Yes	Holland City	Concern about process and transparency	I am concerned about the lack of process and transparency that has transpired in our county's leadership. The actions this week demonstrates leadership that cares more about their political agenda than the necessary work of governing. The abrupt decisions to terminate leaders with knowledge and experience about what it takes to lead our community is unwise. I am very concerned about what problems will occur because of the terminations of the existing county staff.
286	1/6/2023 12:56	James Moored	Yes	Holland Charter Township	General overall comment	First of all, I couldn't be happier that you are our new commissioner. Having been a supporter during your run for office this past Fall I was hoping that you would find something in Michigan dealing with improving governmental operations.  I own five cosmetology schools in Michigan and Indiana with Tulip City Beauty College at 500 E. 8th St. in Holland being the one in Ottawa county. We have 50 Careerline Tech HS seniors as part of our student body from 16 school systems attending our Holland campus and have perhaps the best model in the State of Michigan for allowing students who are interested in the beauty business to experience the industry while in HS prior to actually pursuing beauty as a career.  Please call me at 616 510-3512 and let me know when you can stop by sometime and say Hi. My campus director, Heidi Tarman or myself, Jim Moored, would enjoy showing you our school and seeing how we can support you and your staff moving forward.  Once again, congrats on the new position and we're excited about having you working in our county.
287	1/6/2023 12:56	Susan JÃrgensen Blauvelt	Yes	Grand Haven City	Response to Greetings from Mr. Gibbs	Jim Moored Nice words but they have been drowned out but your actions. Your actions, with absolutely no input from the community and on your first day, tells me that you have no intention of moving this county forward.

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288	1/6/2023 12:56	Kathryn Roberts	Yes	Grand Haven City	Your leadership of Ottawa County.	Your leadership of the County is illegitimate. You failed to win an electoral office and your place on the board was foisted on the County. Hiding behind tRump and Jesus are are not representative of the will of the people of this county and I predict failure from you and your cult.
289	1/6/2023 12:57	MaryMargaret Grillo	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	New Administrator	Firing and hiring of public employees behind closed doors reeks of secret agendas and weakness on the part of those who employ these practices. What are you hiding? Don't bother to deny it. I won't believe you because you've already proven yourself untrustworthy.
290	1/6/2023 12:58	Wendy Bloemers	Yes	Park Township	texting my phone	I am appalled to be receiving auto generated texts from new administrator John Gibbs. It needs to stop immediately.
291	1/6/2023 12:59	Jared Moore	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Disappointment in Leadership	<p>Seeing the process by which Tuesday's meeting was conducted and the actions taken is greatly disappointing. Firing the County Administrator and Health Officers in the manner the board did will damage Ottawa County's ability to recruit top talent in these roles in the future. John Gibbs will likely seek office in the next election cycle and Nathaniel Kelly appears to be a very problematic individual incapable of rational leadership. As we inevitably begin searches for new job candidates in the future, those individuals looking at the position will demand higher salaries and larger severance packages to gird against the impulsivity of the current board. I worry that future boards will also be viewed with skepticism.</p> <p>Ottawa County has been administered by sane, reasonable commissioners who follow best practices in the seven years that I have been here. In just a short few hours, the current board has managed to lose my trust as they acted impulsively with their actions likely damaging the reputation and desirability of Ottawa County as a place for top-talent. This has ramifications for the sound governance of the county impacting future budgets, property values, and the overall climate of the citizenry. It is my sincere hope that this board is able to reflect on their actions, chart a more sound course of action and refrain from adding items to the agenda impulsively in the future.</p> <p>The actions of the chair and co-chair were obviously not shared by the remainder of their voting bloc and it appears that those commissioners may be nothing more than pawns to pad their votes. I hope those commissioners consider what they signed up for and take principled stands against the extreme actions and views espoused by their colleagues going forward. Perhaps things weren't as clear as their pledge promised. Transparency is lacking.</p>
292	1/6/2023 13:01	John Alderson	Yes	Holland City	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I read with dismay the fact that on your first day - among other unannounced decisions - you dissolved the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office without input from the community. I am frankly embarrassed for you and Ottawa County as a whole that you took such an action, especially on the same day you changed the motto to the laughable "Let Freedom Ring" - an empty, faceless platitude with nothing of value specific to where we live.</p> <p>The DEI has had a leading role in expanding the economic health of the area - have you been down 8th street in Holland recently? Do you remember what it was like 10 years ago? The actions of the board do not demonstrate the values that have made this area a special and healthy place to live, and I fear that you are sending us back to the 80's. The 1880's.</p>
293	1/6/2023 13:01	Erin Carmode	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Ashamed	You should all be ashamed of yourselves. I am heartbroken to be living in an area that is being influenced by such deceitful, discriminatory, sexist, racist, misogynistic, narrow-minded and archaic-viewed (the list goes on and on) individuals. All I hope is that my own children grow to be nothing like those involved in Ottawa Impact. YOU are ruining this country and creating a toxic society that has ripples much farther than any of us can predict. Please know that your choices and decisions are much greater than your own self-interest and the agenda of any one individual or organization.
294	1/6/2023 13:01	Tamara Gravelyn	No		Residence Ar	Are you currently a resident of Ottawa County?

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295	1/6/2023 13:01	Chris Kostamo	Yes	Grand Haven City	John Gibbs	<p>Will Mr. Gibbs be moving to Ottawa County? It certainly seems to me that our County Administrator should be a resident, regardless of "qualifications". I don't see how the sudden firing of Mr. Shay and immediate "hiring" of John Gibbs serves the people of Ottawa County in any positive way. And as well, placing a non-resident in the post of Administrator appears to be a mean-spirited, highly political move by the Board of Commissioners simply to prove they're "in charge".</p> <p>The whole country is taking notice -- and not in a favorable way.</p>
296	1/6/2023 13:02	Brad Glazier	Yes	Park Township	Council Meetings	<p>John,</p> <p>You and the new board did not have a good start to 2023. Residents of Ottawa county expect more from their elected representatives. It was shameful to replace the County Administrator, the County Attorney, and others with no notice and no opportunity to be heard. While you may or may not have broken the Open Meetings Act (by meeting in secret and foisting your decision on the rest of the board), it was certainly broken in spirit. Your choice for County Attorney is a new low. He has no background or experience in giving advice or litigating on behalf of a municipality. His claim to fame appears to be the filing of a number of frivolous lawsuits related the 2020 election and the pandemic. Do the right thing and resign with the recommendation that the board hire someone with experience in running a county government.</p>
297	1/6/2023 13:03	Justin Drooger	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Recent actions of the new board	<p>I disagree with the illegal and unethical actions of the new board taken January 3, 2023.</p> <p>You violated the open meetings act and showed disdain for public process, public comment, and public concern, and fiscal responsibility. You are serving the dark money interests behind Ottawa Impact.</p> <p>How is it fiscally conservative to remove without cause an employee under contract when you must continue to pay his contract while paying the new admin? How is that fiscally conservative?</p> <p>How can you remove a public health official and replace them with an HVAC business owner? This action is ridiculous.</p> <p>You all are here because of sour grapes during COVID but that is over. There are no mask mandates to fight. Gay and trans kids have been in our schools for decades. Removing any mention of their existence will not ensure your own kids aren't gay.</p> <p>You are here to run the county. Not pontificate your conservative ideals. Competent governing is what matters on the local level.</p> <p>There is a reason city mayors and city/county boards don't often care about party affiliation.</p> <p>The actions you are taking portend badly for the direction of our county. You disgrace yourselves, the board, and the county.</p> <p>Please research the Open Meetings Act so you can learn to do your job without breaking the law. If you don't want an office of diversity; fine. But, respectfully, please replace it with an office of ethics and accountability. This board is lacking in both.</p> <p>I'll be speaking up and supporting anybody willing to bring accountability.</p> <p>Its not too late to do the right thing. You won the election. Please govern our county as a resident, not a conservative ideologue.</p> <p>Sincerely and respectfully, Justin Drooger</p>
298	1/6/2023 13:05	Lori	Yes	Robinson Township	Not voting for BELKNAP again	<p>I voted for Mr Belknap but will NOT again. I am so sorry and embarrassed. WOW. What a mistake I made. You fired an excellent County Administrator with no valid reason. The state will never ever approve that bozo you appointed health officer - so I won't even go into that. What a waste of tax dollars.</p>
299	1/6/2023 13:06	Peter Turner	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Unprofessional conduct	<p>Unless this board shows evidence to the contrary, their conduct in their first public meeting should be grounds to remove them from office at the earliest legal opportunity to do so. Wasting taxpayer money replacing qualified personnel without cause by itself should be adequate cause.</p> <p>Hopefully, your strangle hold on Ottawa country will be brief and very uncomfortable for all of you.</p> <p>Feel free to do the right thing and resign.</p> <p>Pete Turner</p>

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300	1/6/2023 13:08	james deur	Yes	Zeeland City	new board	I think it is absolutely outrageous and irresponsible the way the Ottawa Impact electees began their first meeting and am appalled at the damage they have and it seems will continue to do to the citizens of Ottawa county. Many of these people espoused their Christian values as the basis for their actions, but their actions are the most UN-Christ like actions I have seen. Christ taught us to love and care for everyone, not just white Dutch people who happen to share their convoluted irrational values. Eliminating the diversity functions is not only UN-Christian it is just plain stupid and is only going to hurt the growth of Ottawa county.
301	1/6/2023 13:09	Blues Heintzelman	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Actions taken by the Board	The Country is so divided already and all you did was pour gasoline on the fire. Your actions are not inline with a growing number of Ottawa residents.
302	1/6/2023 13:10	Kate Angus	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Ottawa County Administrator	I am appalled by the appointment of John Gibbs as Ottawa County Commissioner. There was no just cause to fire John Shay, who had been doing a very good job. John Gibbs is a purely political appointment by the new commissioners and his appointment is going to cost Ottawa County tax payers over 200K for Shay's severance package (which, quite frankly, I don't begrudge him as his firing was entirely uncalled for). Gibbs already lost his bid for election in this area; appointing him is an aggressive act by a new commission clearly interested more in asserting their power than in caring about the actual governance of the residents of this community.
303	1/6/2023 13:14	Bob Roskamp	Yes	Wright Township	Email from Mr Gibbs	Process of new commission, shows me how "politics" is so corrupt !! Run by Big Money !! There will be another election, many people will remember !!
304	1/6/2023 13:14	John Kuiper	Yes	Ferrysburg City	Adm Gibbs	I do not recognize you as our county admin. Your appointment is very unethical and probably illegal. Dana Nessel will straighten it out.
305	1/6/2023 13:14	Michael Davis	Yes	Holland City	Gibbs	This was a shady appointment of a trump lackey ,the current board should be ashamed of what they did , I can't wait to be a former resident of this county
306	1/6/2023 13:15	Lyne Burkey	Yes	Holland City	January Commissioners' Meeting	I was shocked and dismayed at the actions of the newly elected Ottawa County Commissioners during the January Commissioners' meeting, including the appointment of Mr. Gibbs without any input from Ottawa County residents. I sincerely hope the results of AG Dana Nessel's investigation will direct the commissioners to a more legal and democratic direction of doing county business.
307	1/6/2023 13:16	Luanne Helder	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	New Ottawa County Board	<p>I'm appalled at the actions of most of the new Board members this past Tuesday.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In November, Michigan voters made it clear they didn't want John Gibbs representing us in the U.S. Congress and now he is the person in charge of Ottawa County? He isn't even a resident of our county! I certainly don't want him running things here.</li> <li>2. Firing John Shay with no advance notice is unprofessional, vindictive and just plain mean. To put this action in the agenda mid meeting was sneaky, underhanded and just plain wrong. In fact, all of your suspect actions were placed on the agenda mid-meeting without the knowledge of the full Board. To hire John Gibbs, effective immediately, tells me that you don't want to be bothered with input from the community on your decisions. I'm so pleased that our Michigan Attorney General is looking into the legality of the OCB's behavior.</li> <li>3. The dissolution of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office, along with the new county motto, suggests that you are nothing more than a bunch of racists. Is that how Jesus would act? You are the kind of "Christians" that cause others to think we are all hypocrites. Shame on you.</li> <li>4. The vote to install Nathaniel Kelly as the county's new health officer is another slick move. I hope the state of Michigan will not approve of this anti-masker, a person who seems to think he knows more than Dr. Fauci and the CDC. I also learned that he was in a 2021 video dressed up as a woman to make fun of Governor Whitmer's sign language translator. So childish.</li> </ol> <p>I'm so pleased to see Commissioners Bergman and Zylstra standing up for what's right and calling out these new board members for their lack of good faith behavior. This new group of conservatives appear to want to be dictators, not representatives of the people. I am disgusted.</p>

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						<p>Mr. Gibbs,</p> <p>Thank you for taking on the role of Ottawa county administrator!! Your qualifications, education, work experience, volunteerism, background, ethics make you very qualified and an excellent choice. I have high hopes that the new board and yourself will be able to make inroads into bringing more transparency, less good old boys/who you know influence into county decisions/politics and make major improvements in all areas of county operations/decisions. You and the new board members definitely have your work cut out for you, as local TV, newspaper, journalist/newscasters are already spinning their propaganda against you all. Ottawa county has been a very successful and prosperous county for a very long time. This has allowed the infiltration of less than conservative individuals to slowly infiltrate all aspects of county government and make very questionable policy/spending/etc. decisions while the county still being successful, but in the decline in many areas. Thank God that the majority rose up and spoke during the last election and brought great changes to the board. I will pray for you all and wish you the best to take advantage of the opportunity that you all have in front of you. Realize that the path will be extremely difficult. You and the new board members are inexperienced in the "real players/politics" of Ottawa county. You will be opposed at many turns in your efforts, and much will be hidden, behind your back, etc. You, and the new board will need to build your own coalition of county employees/volunteers/business leaders, etc., otherwise you can see what occurred in the last federal government administration. Smiling faces... sometimes they don't tell the truth. Good luck, God bless</p>
308	1/6/2023 13:20	Mark Butler	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Thank you	
309	1/6/2023 13:20	Patricia Dawes	Yes	Grand Haven City	Removing of Cross	There are many of us who want our cross back on the hill. I'd like to see a vote on that. Put God back into this country and things will improve.
310	1/6/2023 13:20	William Ruffini	Yes	Georgetown Township	John Gibbs	John, congratulations on your new position. I wish you all the best of success.
						<p>I no longer have faith in the Board to make decisions that represent me as a member of this county. I am embarrassed as an Ottawa County resident by the actions that occurred at the meeting this past week. What happened was a premeditated and very calculated move that didn't, and doesn't represent the overall members of this community.</p> <p>I have grown up in a Republican household and mostly believed in the party's values throughout my adult life. With what our community has witnessed through the Board's actions this past week, I can confidently say that I will no longer follow the Republican Party. How the Board went about business and demonstrated clear manipulation for the Ottawa Impact gain is disgusting. It did achieve one thing; it showed the rest of Michigan what deceit looks like and that Ottawa Impact believes it is above all of the constituents they claim to represent. The embarrassment it's brought to this community is shameful and frankly sad.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah J. Scholten</p>
311	1/6/2023 13:21	Sarah Scholten	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board Meeting	
312	1/6/2023 13:21	Christin Bradt	Yes	Georgetown Township	Welcome	Welcome Mr. Gibbs! We are fortunate to have you as part of our community and are glad to see someone with your faith, background and desire to lead in your position. I look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the future.
313	1/6/2023 13:27	Robert P Swierenga	No		new county administration	I welcome your early decisions to eliminate the Equity-Diversity board, to replace the health director who ill-advisedly shut businesses and schools, and the appointment of John Gibbs as the new administrator.
314	1/6/2023 13:29	Kristin Keller	Yes	Holland City	Angry at the New Changes	Be mindful of the separation of church and state in both your written and spoken communication while working for the county. It is inappropriate and alienating. Bring back a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion so all members of the community can feel they belong in Ottawa county. This new agenda is not welcome here.
315	1/6/2023 13:30	Jackson Brown	Yes	Holland Charter Township	You suck	All of you, Trump, look-alikes, pulling the trailer to pull the shade over the people that live in this county, bringing in a virtual carpet, bagger and firing people that were doing good jobs you should be ashamed of yourselves. You'll be doing nothing but hurting the businesses of Ottawa county, especially Holland who the heck is going to want to live here bunch of rednecks yahoos running the place?
316	1/6/2023 13:30	Daryl LaCombe	Yes	Park Township	Commissioners' Meeting	To the commissioners who hijacked the January meeting I say, how dare you!! If you thought you were doing the right thing, why did you neglect to include these items on the agenda? You had to believe there would be opposition to these changes and therefore proceeded in an underhanded manner. Ottawa Impact is a curse on this county.

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317	1/6/2023 13:31	Diane Payne	Yes	Holland City	Ottawa Impact	I am so disappointed by the new Ottawa Impact County Commissioners. They do not represent our county, just their Q-Anon Wacky Freedom Seeking Neti-pot anti-American friends. Your first meeting has shown your true colors. Please do not use my tax dollars to fund the severance pay for the people who should have kept their jobs. Eliminate Gibbs. If wearing a mask was the worst thing that happened to these Ottawa Impact folks to make them this enraged, they have no idea how most Americans have truly suffered in their lifetimes and how we have dealt with our losses and pain in ways that help others, not bullying people and shouting "Freedom" while carrying weapons all around town. Shame on all of you!
318	1/6/2023 13:32	Camila Looby	Yes	Holland City	Processing of Bylaws by Ottawa Co	Every organization that supports and is a watchdog for discrimination of any kind should be outraged! These same organizations should be actively engaged and responding to the actions of the Ottawa County Commissioners. A department that includes the Ottawa County Sheriff's office should not be left to police themselves under the blatant bias of this group of thugs that has a leadership bent on inciting hatred. All city boards encompassing Ottawa County should be uproariously taking action with the Michigan Attorney General's Office.
319	1/6/2023 13:34	Melissa Warthen	Yes	Holland City	Please resign and let sanity prevail	John,  You were not legitimately appointed to the Ottawa County Board. You will not last in the position as you are neither intellectually nor experientially qualified. You are a pawn and made to look like a fool owing to the company you keep. Good governance requires good people - you are not one of them.  Please resign and let sanity and good government prevail.  M. Warthen
320	1/6/2023 13:37	Char Zoet	Yes	Spring Lake Township	County commission & firing of key employees	I disapprove of the method by which Ottawa Impact took over the county and I disapprove of the abrupt firing of sincere, hardworking employees, of the lack of transparency, of the lack of discussion & of the fact that this was all decided in advance. I abhor the idea that Ottawa Impact won't speak with media and won't participate in forums or other public events.
321	1/6/2023 13:38	William Meyers	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Vote of No Confidence	Based upon what the Board of Commissioners did during their last meeting, I am voicing my outrage and disgust with the current board. Your actions have done absolutely nothing to improve the way of life for the residents of Ottawa County. Rather, by your deceitful and underhanded (not to mention disrespectful) method of removing qualified, competent employees who don't fit into "your" vision of government, you have done nothing but further polarize this community. Yes, you were voted into this office by the people but be very aware that your actions are and will be under constant scrutiny by those very people and those of us whom you have already shown complete disrespect for.  I'm sure you will be hearing more and more from us in the "not-so silent majority" as your intents to inflict "your" will upon the people of Ottawa County by measures that certainly wouldn't pass the sniff test in any high school Civics/Ethics class.
322	1/6/2023 13:41	Ruth M Gorsky	Yes	Georgetown Township	First day	So proud of you coming in doing what you did on your first day , well done and can't wait to see what else happens in this year ! God bless
323	1/6/2023 13:45	Steve Overacker	Yes	Crockery Township	Michigan AG investigation	So happy to see that the Michigan AG is investigating the actions of the Board.
324	1/6/2023 13:45	James Moore	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Governmental overreach	I am appalled and disgusted by the recent replacement of county government by a small number of right wing actors. This takeover happened outside of the Open Meetings Act and I am embarrassed to say Ottawa County residents can be co-opted in this manner.

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						<p>Meetings to make decisions concerning how the county will be administered should be held in public. The actions that preceded the January 3 county commissioners meeting are reported to have included: selection of a chairman, discussions concerning a new country administrator to the point of selecting a new county administrator with no opportunity for public comment, discussions of replacing a country health administrator to the point of selecting a candidate whose qualifications are highly questionable, and no opportunity for public comment. Any conversations with the newly appointed health commissioner and the newly installed country commissioner prior to the January 3 meeting were simply improper, those actions should not be binding on the citizens of Ottawa County. I believe that both appointments made at the January 3rd meeting should be set aside and that a proper search for both a country administrator and head of the health department should be opened. That includes considering other applicants for both positions, opening the ability to comment on the applicants to all Ottawa County citizens not just those known to agree with the 6 commissioners that improperly installed persons in those positions.</p> <p>Finally, a comment on Ottawa Impact and their failure to adhere to their own contract with Ottawa. You are now the government, and based on Jan 3 actions are far worse than those you replaced! I have seen nothing stating cause for dismal of either the country administrator or head of the health department. Why was it necessary to do this out of the publics view? You promised transparency, but you did not operate in public where citizens could comment. You promised to honor all people equally, but consulted only those known to agree with your positions. You should expand you new country moto to be more specific "Where freedom rings -- as long as you agree with Ottawa Impact commissioners".</p>
325	1/6/2023 13:46	Esther Patrick	Yes	Georgetown Township	Disapproval of process of Jan 3 meeting	FYI since this submission will be public, I do not feel phone numbers or e mail should be required. Information should be limited to that collected at the commission meetings which I believe is name and address.
326	1/6/2023 13:48	Alan Faber	Yes	Georgetown Township	New Position	Good to have you on board.
327	1/6/2023 13:50	DeI Dornbos	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Recent Board of Commosioners actions	I am VERY disapointed with your recent actions especially to displace well qualified personnel with extremist leaning personnel selected by a faction that does not represent the majority of the county residents.
328	1/6/2023 13:52	Allen Steenwyk	Yes	Holland City	John Gibbs	How dare you usurp the office of an outstanding public servant!
329	1/6/2023 13:52	Roger Ryan	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Welcome	Welcome to Ottawa county Mr Gibbs
330	1/6/2023 13:54	Madeline Brooks	Yes	Ferrysburg City	If it aint broke, dont fix it and dont ruin it	<p>I have lived in Ottawa county for over 25 years. It is a beautiful place with good people. The services are above average, the costs low. I am concerned about all of the sudden changes implemented by the new board commissioners. They seem to want to blow up what has been good and working for most in the county, starting with the firing and appointment of the county administrator. They have purposely sought out people with extreme views and little experience in the jobs that they are being hired to complete. I could not be more dissappointed in the new direction of the county. There was a reason that Ottawa county was among the top places in Michigan to reside or vacation. The previous board and administrators were doing an exemplarly job. The Ottawa Impact group was mad about masking in the public schools and the riled up the community. While they claim that they have huge support, I think that they are taking the fact that they were able to win in the primary and basically run un-opposed in the general election too far. They may have received the majority vote, but they represent ALL of the citizens in Ottawa County. Not just the ones that fit into their definintion of who they want living here. While I am a supporter of freedom, I do believe I have rights and freedoms that need to be considered as well, even if they do not conform to the Ottawa Impact ideas. I am certain that the county will begin losing more talented employees and its new vision will deter new residents and employers from settling here. I think the fact that they hired as the county administrator, a person who lost in the general election for US Congress, a slap in the face to their non-supporters. The fact that John Gibbs happens to be a person of color does not erase their attempts to bring to a halt any progress to bring more diversity to our County. I cannot even fathom how they fired a fully qualified public health official and are attempting to replace her with a covid-denier activist who does not have the credentials to keep our county safe from any public health threat. I have NO confidence whatsoever in this candidate for this very important position. I hope that the State of Michigan Public Health Board denies this appointment. In conclusion, while I realize that change is inevitable, making wholesale changes to prove some points is rarely successful. The wise will sit back and observe a bit and then make educated decisions. I am praying for a RECALL!</p>

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331	1/6/2023 13:56	Vicki Dornbos	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Board Actions	I am very disappointed in the actions of the new Ottawa County Board. The Politics involved in the firing and replacement of qualified staff is morally wrong and unjustified! Also eliminating the office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and eliminating more staff will have long lasting consequences. This action does not represent the majority of Ottawa County residents. Thankfully all of this will be under review by the state.
332	1/6/2023 13:59	Jan Harris	Yes	Hudsonville City	Disgust!!	I am very saddened & embarrassed at the actions the commission took in their meeting. I am sure some of it was illegal. If this is supposed to what "good Christians" folks would do please go back & look at how Jesus treated those different from him.
333	1/6/2023 14:01	Marlin Vis	Yes	Holland City	John Gibbs	That you would send out an email shamelessly promoting the appointment of John Gibbs is only further confirmation that our County Commissioners are totally shameless. The way this was handled both saddens and sickens me. Your action in appointing Mr Gibbs to office was deceitful and arrogant"and that" being kind. This kind of action is part of the problem with politics. There was no attempt at process, only a bullying by those recently elected.
334	1/6/2023 14:03	Susan Steketee	Yes	Georgetown Township	Mr. Gibbs's residency.	What county does Mr. Gibbs live in? Hopefully he resides in Ottawa County if he is to represent the people of Ottawa County. Also what procedure was taken to appoint him to his position? I find it ironic that I had to give my address and which county I live in to be able to comment, but we don't know where Mr. Gibbs and other newly elected official reside! The newly elected commissioners were critical of the previous commissioners for not being transparent and open to comments at the meetings, yet your very first meeting you did exactly what you complained about only much worse.
335	1/6/2023 14:05	Lisa Van Engen	Yes	Holland City	Recent changes	I am incredibly disappointed in the recent changes that occurred without opportunity for public comment.  Working in education and a non profit I have worked with many young people and families from Ottawa County. We live in an incredibly diverse area. The recent changes do not reflect the people who live here.  It is incredibly short- sighted to end the diversity and inclusion office, to rely on administrators who do not follow science, and assume everyone here has the same far-right beliefs.  Freedom is welcoming everyone as a neighbor. Freedom is living communally and giving everyone a voice. Your "new" county motto, let freedom ring is hollow. You seem to only want that freedom for a very narrow margin of people. The Bible verses given by people who did somehow know what happening and attended the meeting ring hollow too. The changes that were made are not even remotely close to what Jesus would call us to do.
336	1/6/2023 14:06	S A	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Separate church and state	Why am I receiving government messages with mention of religion? Why is there no separation of church and state? Regardless of personal beliefs Ottawa county is not a Christian county. Keep it out of my inbox.
337	1/6/2023 14:09	David Stefanich	Yes	Park Township	Transparency	Hi,  I am extremely concerned about the actions taken by new board members and the lack of transparency around the agenda to the first meeting. I am also extremely concerned about Mr. Gibbs, an election denier serving our diverse population of Ottawa County. I am hoping the board starts taking action to building bridges instead of political ploys to make our county more divisive.
338	1/6/2023 14:11	Jeanne Van Wieren	Yes	Spring Lake Township	egregious actions of Ottawa Board of Commissioners	I just want to go on record as objecting strenuously to the bad behavior of many of the commissioners in their last minute controversial additions to the meeting agenda, of the replacement of the administrator with John Gibbs, whose extreme political philosophy was rejected by overwhelmingly by voters, and the abolition of the Department of Diversity and Inclusion. These actions have made the county a laughing stock and are unethical and beyond the limits of basic decency.
339	1/6/2023 14:14	Donna Tobin	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Firing of commissioner and staff.	To the commission, Do not appreciate the firing of an elected official and installing you own people. Our elections matter and you undermined it all. But that what Ottawa Impact is about. Railroaded thier way in and forcing their views on others. I hope you are all found guilty of your wrong doings.
340	1/6/2023 14:14	Albert Bell	Yes	Holland City	ottawa impact coup	I cannot believe the stunt you people have pulled. I know we can't start a recall process for several months yet, but I hope to be one of the first to sign the petition.

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341	1/6/2023 14:14	Michael Dirksen	Yes	Holland City	Gibbs appointment & the change in motto	<p>With the change in the motto, who, exactly, doesn't belong here?</p> <p>Also, John Gibbs -- do you feel like women should vote? If yes, please explain your previous position and why that position doesn't immediately disqualify you from holding public office. Also, was the 2020 election won by Joe Biden? How do you explain your support for the insurrectionists? Why shouldn't that support immediately disqualify you from holding public office?</p>
342	1/6/2023 14:18	Mark Hiskes	Yes	Holland City	communication at first meeting	<p>Mr. Gibbs, as a fellow Christian I found the tone, behavior, and actions of the first meeting deplorable--particularly since so many of the new commissioners claim to be Christ followers.</p> <p>The new commissioners acted deceptively in changing the agenda. They acted without mercy in dismissing two public servants without a fair hearing (as an audience of alleged Christians heartlessly cheered them on!). They acted with exclusivity by shutting down an office whose sole purpose is to recognize that the Kingdom of God as it exists in Ottawa County welcomes people of all races and ethnicities and persuasions; this was made worse by changing the county motto to "Let Freedom Ring," as though freedom is a virtue or that it can practiced without the responsibility to love all our neighbors as well (for example, by wearing a mask or social distancing to save a life). They acted irresponsibly in electing a health official who cares more about politics than saving real lives and who is clearly, by any county's standard, unqualified.</p> <p>Your opening words about "prayers being answered" sounded pious, but realize, Mr Gibbs, that there are many Christians on the other side of these issues you and the commissioners feel called to reverse. God's will is a mystery, and you and the commissioners would do well to show humility rather than the hubris with which you have acted.</p> <p>If you truly want to represent all of us in Ottawa County, you would do well to start listening to all of us rather than to the loudest voices of the upstart Ottawa Impact group.</p>
343	1/6/2023 14:19	Mistelle Serio	No		Recent Email from John Gibbs	<p>Good afternoon. Although I do not live in Ottawa Co, I do work there, and I did live in the county for the first 40 years of my life. I received an email from Mr. Gibbs today, and I feel compelled to respond. I am deeply disturbed by the actions the new commission has taken this past week. The sweeping elimination of jobs, and entire departments is unacceptable. The most upsetting thing is the elimination of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Your obvious fear of people that are not like you, is alarming. Your hiding behind religion, and that is unacceptable, and the exact reason why so many people turn away from religion. This is very short sighted thinking, and will cause irreparable harm to so many in the county. Stop being so short sighted, and start accepting all people, because THAT is what Jesus would do!</p>
344	1/6/2023 14:28	Steven VanDoornik	Yes	Holland City	Meetings	<p>I am disappointed by the County Board. They have flaunted their racist and xenophobic muscle. They have chosen Theocracy over Democracy. The only way out is to remove the Ottawa Impact Nazi-Christian members next fall.</p>
345	1/6/2023 14:30	Garry LaCombe	Yes	Park Township	Recent events	<p>Totally appalled by the recent HI-JACKING of our Ottawa County government. No longer proud to say we live in this county and feel it has taken a huge step backwards, with all the changes made behind our backs. Angry tax payer.</p>
346	1/6/2023 14:31	Gary Bernauer	Yes	Hudsonville City	Transparency	<p>I hope moving forward in your new position you will choose to offer more transparency to matters than was offered in gaining this position and "cleaning house". Elimination of the Office of Diversity does not bode well for business opportunities in our community and gives insight into the direction you and the Board are taking. Hopefully there are still things such as published agendas and open meetings in the future for our county.</p>
347	1/6/2023 14:32	Theresa Reagan	Yes	Park Township	Leadership	<p>The swift removal and replacement of key members of this commission is extremely disturbing. The change of mission, removal of diversity/inclusion leadership, directives to alter the manner in which education is taught, etc. are indications that this board and leaders are moving to take our county backwards in time.</p> <p>I do not support these changes for our community.</p>

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348	1/6/2023 14:38	Kurt Wassink	Yes	Park Township	Poor leadership	While many of your positions I had supported, I can no longer support your cowardly lack of leadership. You showed you value loopholes and backroom deals like the 1970's. You proved you do not value open discussion for input resulting in appropriate decisions in county decisions. As a lifelong county resident, business executive, republican and county committee member, I was embarrassed by your back-room deals. The people may have voted you in for what you stand for, but this county should not stand for leaders like you who just proved you operate by "the ends justify the means". If voters knew what we know now, you never would have been elected. What would this country look like if government all operated the way you just did?
349	1/6/2023 14:39	Laurie Luciani	Yes	Hudsonville City	Disappointment	It is a great disappointment that John Gibbs has been given the position of administrator for the County. I did not feel he had values that matter to me when he ran for congress, therefore, I did not vote for him and was quite relieved when he lost the election. Now, due to some underhanded manipulations, he has been given a position for which he does not have to answer to constituents. If this continues, we will leave democracy behind in favor of autocracy. Very disappointing.
350	1/6/2023 14:41	Tim Taylor	Yes	Holland Charter Township	No confidence in this bunch of clowns	Folks -  I don't need the drama and the gestapo like tactics you use. I am a former Republican who is now Independent due to idiots like you. I sincerely hope you are voted out of office in the next election. What surprises do you have in store for us down the road??? Are you going ban our books next??  To say I am unhappy and disgruntled over your decisions is an understatement.
351	1/6/2023 14:44	Arlene Hecksel	Yes	Crockery Township	Administrator appointment	I am appalled that John Gibbs was appointed administrator. He is not qualified nor a resident of Ottawa County. I oppose his views on the right to an abortion and his biases towards women in general. He is out of step with 2023 constituents and lost his bid to represent Michigan by double digits. Since he can't win an election is it fair to appoint him? What a waste of taxpayer money, 300,000\$ plus. The BOC fired qualified and vetted staff. This is poor management and fiscal negligence. Please reinstate Mr. Shay and the others. Mr. Gibbs would be more productive volunteering in Japan than wasting our dollars in Ottawa county. Perhaps the BOC is an antiquated entity that we don't need anymore. It is a body that isn't transparent in its public meetings and only offers a duplication of services in Michigan with its draconian views. Thank you for your consideration
352	1/6/2023 14:44	june Dykstra	Yes	Georgetown Township	Unprofessional behavior	The behavior of the new board at the first meeting of the year was extremely unprofessional and very costly to the taxpayers you were elected to represent. Your personal agenda appears to be the only thing any of the Ottawa Impact members support. I have lived in this county for over 50 years and this is the first time I am truly ashamed to say that I live here. I hope a recall effort is mounted soon before too much damage is done.
353	1/6/2023 14:45	Dan Kleymeer	Yes	Grand Haven City	Welcome and help please.	Welcome to Ottawa County, Mr. Gibbs. You certainly have an interesting background. Overqualified IMO but thank you for sharing your talents with us while you are here. Request: please tell me how to stop the 12:00 from blinking on my VCR. (Again, welcome, and enjoy the fun we have in OC).

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						<p>Second, I want to bring to your attention a contract that is currently in place with the Ottawa County Commission and Good Samaritan. {Good Samaritan launches eviction prevention program funded by ARPA (hollandsentinel.com)} It is a \$2 million - 3-year program for rental assistance. This program in its essence is an extension of the CERA (COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program) program that was funded by the Federal Government and passed through to MSHDA via the COVID Spending bill. The CERA program paid up to 12 months of back rent assistance with a possible 3 additional months of forward rent for tenants. Additionally, through the program included Utility Assistance, including water, sewer, heat and electricity. The maximum amount was \$2,500, plus an internet stipend was also available for those who present a bill. The Federal Government appropriately discontinued the funding of this program.</p> <p>By Ottawa County extending the program, it continues to perpetuate issues for those individuals that have already received assistance, many of whom have already received 15 months' worth of assistance.</p> <p>There is no incentive to strive toward self-sufficiency nor incentive to return to gainful employment, causing the continuation of the war for talent for our employers.</p> <p>This program does not provide a permanent solution to the housing issues that continue to plague Ottawa County, but just a band-aid for the next 3 years and then we are back to the same issues that we have been experiencing. A \$2 million dollar investment to a revolving housing fund, that can be eventually self-funded and provide stable, safe and attainable housing, would provide a longer-term solution and also increase economic growth in Ottawa County.</p> <p>I urge you to consider discontinuing the contract with Good Samaritan and allocate the funding to a more appropriate and sustainable solution.</p> <p>I would also encourage you to look into all of the contracts that are currently in place for services rendered to the County of Ottawa and what the taxpayers are truly paying for. I think the commission would be astounded to find the number and cost of services that need to be reviewed as appropriate expenditures.</p>
354	1/6/2023 14:45	Brenda Molendyk	Yes	Zeeland City	Rental Assistance Program	
355	1/6/2023 14:46	Tim Davison	Yes	Spring Lake Township	John Gibbs	Happy to see you in the role, John. Good luck.
356	1/6/2023 14:46	Glennyce Grindstaff	Yes	Holland City	Ottawa County /John Gibbs	<p>Mr Gibbs,</p> <p>I am not delighted in whatever capacity you think you are serving in. You are there illegally. The Board acted out of bounds and not within the greater good of this community and defiantly not with the proper legal standing.</p> <p>Your actions are harmful and misguided. You will bring down every good thing this community has been striving for for diversity and for the safety of People of Color and the LGBTQ community. Shame on all of you for your actions, but you especially for having accepted this now tainted position. You do not now, nor will you ever speak for me.</p> <p>Reverend Glennyce Grindstaff</p>
357	1/6/2023 14:48	Brandan	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Suck a dick	Fuck you, fascists fucks. Board of losers is all this fucking is.
358	1/6/2023 14:49	James Vandenbrink	Yes	Holland City	Welcome the new commissioners	<p>Thanks for your willingness to standup and make yourselves available to stop the destruction of our freedom and liberty here in Ottawa County. What a relief it is to now have people in charge who will stand up for our kids and families. Bringing sanity and common sense into this world of chaos we have seen over the last three years. Thank you again for what you are doing.</p> <p>Sincerely, James Vandenbrink</p>
359	1/6/2023 14:56	Mary Pardue	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	John Gibbs	I certainly hope John Gibbs does a decent job but I cannot condone the way he got his position. I had no idea our County officials could just be hired. Good luck, Mr. Gibbs, but you others should think about how you went about this.

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360	1/6/2023 15:03	Virginia Beard	No		Disappointed	As a former resident of Ottawa County, commissioner on the Ottawa County Housing Commission and faculty at Hope College, I am deeply disappointed in the Board of Commissioners (not all of them, three are respectable (Doug Zylstra, Rebekah Curran, Roger Bergman) and the subversive manner in which a non-resident EVER of our county was made the leader of our county. Political ideology and lack of understanding of the needs of this role have driven a devastating decision. Our county is one more victim of the ridiculous, divisive, ideological idiocy plaguing our country
361	1/6/2023 15:12	Sue Kerbel	Yes	Georgetown Township	Being transparent	At your first meeting the commissioners with obvious closed door sessions made major changes without the knowledge of your constituents. Never mind any meaningful discussion. I am disturbed and feel that you acted in a let's shove it down your throat procedure. Not thinking of the financial cost your move incurred. This kind of action will backfire. We are a democracy where we listen and compromise. I am disgusted by your behaviors.
362	1/6/2023 15:15	Michael Jager	Yes	Blendon Township	Poor board handling of administrator replacement	Embarrassing to lifelong county resident and republican. I knew the inexperience of the new people would be a learning curve but wow!  This will be a long mess to clean up with no apparent reasoning or discussion with constituents. John Gibbs is a misogynistic, arrogant, person with no connection to our county or rural/small town lifestyle.  Very terrible decisions made hastily and without input.  Shameful beginning for the new board
363	1/6/2023 15:17	David McGovern	Yes	Park Township	Future of our County	I have been following the news of the new board and I am displeased with your first two moves. You have replaced our county health officer with an unqualified bumpkin from an online school in Alabama. Most of what you do has absolutely no impact on our community because you are essentially powerless, however this move has the power to actually kill our residents with disinformation and misguided public health directives that are not evidence based. Your second move, to replace our inclusive motto with "where freedom rings" is a Trumpian attempt at propaganda and is Orwellian in its nature. Our nation has rejected Trump and all he stood for "greed, white supremacy, division, and hate. Likewise, we reject you and will work to vote you out of public office in Ottawa County.
364	1/6/2023 15:20	Mary Mapes	Yes	Georgetown Township	John Gibbs Email	John, I just want to say congratulations on your position as Ottawa County Administrator. Looking forward to having you work for the people of Ottawa County! So glad to have you as our Administrator!!
365	1/6/2023 15:20	Mike Hutchins	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	changes the board	I do not support the way changes were made. I do not support the people who you propose to handle the Health dept. I believe you may have violated the open meetings act. I am disappointed in your actions.
366	1/6/2023 15:24	Kristen Lounsbury	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Concern	I am very concerned with the direction this county is headed after the strange appointment of John Gibbs as Administrator. I grew up in Ottawa County and have spent my whole life here, yet I now feel unwelcome and unsafe due to this change in "leadership" Gibbs has expressed previously that he does not believe women should be able to vote, and praised an organization that was trying to repeal the 19th Amendment of the US Constitution, which granted women the right to vote in 1919. How can a man who praised the unconstitutional repealment of such an important and equitable piece of national legislation have any place in our local government? Is this what Ottawa County stands for? No. But it is clear that the members of the Ottawa County Board do not have their constituents, whom then are supposed to be serving, in mind.  The entire nation is starting to hear of this appointment, and videos have gone viral explaining the situation occurring in this county. The country is watching. Many people, like me, are concerned and disappointed. I am ashamed to call this place my home. Please fix this.
367	1/6/2023 15:26	Charles Miller	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Open meetings act.	Curious on how so many decisions were reached without violating the open meetings act. Apparently so is Dana Nessel. Appointment of an HVAC technician as county health department head is stunning. Congratulations to all for a stunning start. Should be an interesting four years. Please don't use taxpayer money for defense attorneys.

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368	1/6/2023 15:26	Cherri Johns	Yes	Georgetown Township	Christian nationalist takeover	As a Jewish family in Ottawa county we are absolutely terrified. Is it true that members of the board and the new admin are supported and affiliated with a political group with aimed intentions of making Christianity the dominate/ legal religion of our public schools and county? That the aim of eliminating diversity for the county and removing Welcome part of our motto to actualize a religious doctrine and white focused culture? What will this board be doing (specifically) in support of Muslim, Jewish, atheist, Buddhist to ensure our children and neighbors are free from Christian indoctrination and oppression?
369	1/6/2023 15:29	Susan Grefe	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners	I am very disappointed that the Office of Diversity had been disbanded and that you fired the head Ottawa County needs this office to grow and flourish You are off to a very bad start
370	1/6/2023 15:30	Rob Pocock	Yes	Holland City	Attorney General Investigation	Thank you for introducing yourself, John. Best wishes as you undertake this very important role. Will you pledge to give 100% to the Michigan Attorney General if she moves forward on her announced investigation of the Ottawa County Board's recent actions?
371	1/6/2023 15:32	Susan Vanderbilt	Yes	Holland City	No thank you	I am disgusted with the recent changes made by these mentally ill, unqualified MAGA people. Clearly they need to deal with their Covid trauma vs. holding us hostage to their delusional thoughts. You don't represent us!
372	1/6/2023 15:37	Lorma Williams Freestone	Yes	Holland City	County Administrator's email	Well, John Gibbs, I know I won't be the first to tell you this, but I am far from celebrating the change in County Administrator, nor the outrageous takeover that has occurred in the last week. The speed and irresponsibility of changes is shocking and an embarrassment. Please know that I will be doing everything in my power to limit the damage you and the Ottawa Impact-backed commissioners will do to our county.  Sincerely, Lorma Williams Freestone
373	1/6/2023 15:38	Judy Hardy	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Jan. 3rd meeting	The information coming from your Jan. 3rd meeting is very disturbing and highly suspect. For example, as a taxpayer of Ottawa co. The distribution of monies to replace the outgoing Chairman seems to be a move that is wasteful to say the least. It also disturbs me that the department of diversity and inclusion was closed. The hidden message is that Ottawa Co. does not care to invest in those that are served by that department.  The hiring of John Gibbs is fraught with questions as well. I read his intro letter and know he was born in Michigan. However, his life journey to date give an impressive resume, but there is no connection to John Q. Public. The move by each of you is highly suspect for some "hidden agenda."  Though I have lived in Ottawa county for most of my life, I am ashamed to admit it. The new logo says "freedom for all." I am part of the "all" but the most recent moves by your board indicate that the freedom is for some!  Respectfully submitted Judy Hardy
374	1/6/2023 15:39	Sue White	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	County Administrator	I am displeased that no one in the County was notified in advance of the ousting of the former Administrator nor consulted by putting in John Gibbs. Not my choice. The fact that a prayer and invoking the Lord during the meeting goes against every principle of separation of church and State. He is not qualified for the position and the people spoke via voting in the last election that this was not the man for Michigan.
375	1/6/2023 15:42	Yvonne Olmsted	Yes	Grand Haven City	not trusting a person such as John Gibbs	John Gibbs has a history of making false, inflammatory, and conspiratorial remarks on his Twitter feed and this is very uncomfortable to me in his role of administrator of Ottawa County. In July 2020, Trump nominated Gibbs to be director of the United States Office of Personnel Management, but he was never confirmed by the Senate. Gibbs promoted Trump's false claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.
376	1/6/2023 15:44	Ellen Wilkerson	No		scary changes	Why are you afraid of diversity?

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377	1/6/2023 15:57	Barbara Cote	Yes	Park Township	Subversive meeting to fire County Administrator	Transparency claimed is the OPPOSITE of how you acted! The Public Meetings act was violated and you BLIND-SIDED board members not of your far-right agenda with huge leadership firings/hirings WITHOUT PUBLIC INPUT, defying democratic principles and by-laws of the County Board of Commissioners. Dana Nessel is correct in investigating your spurious agenda. The previous commissioners had performed many positive budgetary allotments for the public good and now you're undermining the mission of Public Health to make data-driven recommendations for safe health of the public in another wave of mutated COVID, endangering lives and the capacity of medical facilities to care for this upsurge in cases. Media and the incumbent commissioners are exposing your actions and we the public will monitor and critique further demolition of diversity/health services! Any further far right agenda politicizing like masking and vaccination recommendations will be challenged as the CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER that they ARE! What you have done will be legally challenged. You will not invade our local government with impunity! WE SEE YOU! Procedures for hiring and firing practices are established and WILL BE UPHELD! Your incursion into representative government that was responsible to the public via inclusion and input, 3 years of study/evaluation with reasoned recommendations will be investigated and regulated. The Forward Action of Ottawa and Allegan Counties will organize this, monitoring your Ottawa Impact agenda. Ottawa Impact is in my opinion subversive to good governance, motivated by power grabs and Big Money directives/operations by the likes of Betsy DeVos and the Koch regime and NEGLECTING DATA-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS LIKE EQUITY IN BROAD BAN, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PRIORITIES AND FAIR HOUSING INVESTMENTS/ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN OTTAWA COUNTY. YOU ARE IN OFFICE TO SERVE, NOT BROKER POLITICAL STRATEGIES THAT UNDERMINE AND REVERSE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PRIOR BOARD. We the People will NOT TOLERATE INSURRECTION AND CORRUPTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. I advise you to review the TRANSPARENT posts of Commissioner Doug to learn how to govern FOR THE COMMON GOOD based on reasoned research and public input, Open Meetings and effective, budgeted programs that address the public's issues over political aims of who uses what bathroom, what books to read, aborting immigration integration assistance like English Language Services or the county board established diversity department or hirings.
378	1/6/2023 16:02	Michael Shemanski	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	New administration	Totally disappointed and shocked that our newly elected officials who campaigned on transparency would pull such shady move on us. Mr. Gibbs stated they are going to be transparent, when? After he happens to be present at a board meeting in a county he doesn't live in. This is a Christian? Starting off by deceiving everyone. Running on values? Nope just another hypocritical failed politician. God help us.
379	1/6/2023 16:08	Will Goosen	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	Welcome to your new position.	You went from a missionary to a staff of 700 that doesn't compute. Being fluent in Spanish would be helpful in Ottawa County, not Japanese! Here's the rub, taxes in Ottawa are outrageous, what if anything can you do to reduce this burden on Ottawa residents. We're mostly blue collar and agricultural with a seasonal tourism influx. We're not Detroit, Lansing or even GR. We're watching!!
380	1/6/2023 16:08	Alan Erickson	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Hiring of John Gibbs	I strongly object to the process and hiring of John Gibbs as the Ottawa County Administrator. I fully support an investigation into those parties responsible for this to take place in this county.
381	1/6/2023 16:11	Gail Roelofs	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Thankful	I am so thankful for all of you! I know you are doing hard work and getting a lot of grief for it! My husband and I support you and are praying for God's Will and plan for Ottawa County! We are also praying for protection for you and your family's from the arrows of the devil! Always put on the FULL ARMOUR OF GOD! He will Bless you as you stand against the ways of the world! Blessings, Joel & Gail Roelofs
382	1/6/2023 16:13	Gene Phelps	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Decision by your board	I find your decisions to be very harmful to the community. The arrogance to believe that your thoughts and way are the only way of doing business is just lacking diversity of opinion and arrogant to believe your way is the only way. Those are the things that tell me as an independent voter really start to consider stop voting for any Republican. The last few years have shown the lack of direction (except for trying to delete any thoughts other than yours) to be always for the party and for the citizens.
383	1/6/2023 16:14	Leonard Buchanan	Yes	Grand Haven City	Certainly no praise	John, your view of women is straight out of the middle ages or sounds like the Taliban. For the rest of you spineless wonders that had to sign a contract to do someone else's bidding, why don't you all man or woman up. No right minded person wants your perverted version of Christianity. A small group should not dictate to the majority, especially those beholden to signing a contract to get votes.

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384	1/6/2023 16:16	Marilyn Tenney	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	New slogan	I am so disappointed in new slogan. Freedom sounds like a Republican slant and has nothing to do with our area. I was always so proud of the slogan because it showed pride in our area. I am hoping it will be returned to the original slogan . I am all for freedom and drmocracy but the last election used the word freedom to promote party and it was offensive!
385	1/6/2023 16:20	Ruth Dillon	Yes	Hudsonville City	Way to go!!	We are so thankful for you and excited to see what youâ€™ll be able to achieve for our community. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve in these politically trying times. Congratulations and May God bless you!
386	1/6/2023 16:23	Lynn Wildt	Yes	Holland City	Total Farce	<p>The Ottawa County Commissioners have made this county a laughing stock!!! Somehow this county elected election deniers, mask deniers, and anti vaccers.....!!!!!! You all should be ashamed of yourselves! Worst of all you hire a guy who worked for an administration that GOT NOTHING DONE!!! The retrumplicans had to keep him around so he could run against Hillary Scholten again in 2024. Somehow Ottawa county got the short straw. You people really need some science lessons!</p> <p>Masks WORK!!! Vaccines are safe and they WORK!!!! Our elections were free, fair and safe.... oh AND THERE WAS NO FRAUD!!!!</p> <p>THE ONLY FRAUD ARE THE COMMISSIONERS LEADING THIS COUNTY!!!!</p>
387	1/6/2023 16:23	Sue Cortese	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	changes and cost of those changes	<p>The newly elected Commissioners campaigned on transparency, yet it is clearly they made back room decisions without public input or comment prior to their first day in office. These changes will cost taxpayers thousands (or if not more) and if proper procedures were not followed, changes may have to be undone, costing even more.</p> <p>I especially mad/frustrated/upset by the fact that they placed someone who doesn't believe I have the right to vote in a position of authority within my community!</p>
388	1/6/2023 16:30	Robbyn Tygrett	Yes	Spring Lake Village	John Gibbs as "NEW" Ottawa County Administrator	<p>I received a "Welcome" via text from John Gibbs as our "NEW" Ottawa County Administrator.</p> <p>He is ONLY County Administrator because of the Ottawa Impact driven "County Coup" that took place in the absence of any public announcement of the "meeting" in which John Shay was fired &amp; Gibbs put in his place.</p> <p>Also fired were the only 2 employees who advocated/represented Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion in Ottawa County.</p> <p>My hope is that every legal measure against this travesty be taken. Perhaps by Michigan's AG?</p> <p>There are THOUSANDS of Ottawa County residents who are outraged by this direct violation of our Democracy. This is NOT over.</p>
389	1/6/2023 16:32	Lawrence Spitzley	Yes	Holland City	Administrator	I appreciate Mr Gibbs' comment. His credentials seem okay. However, his credibility will always be suspect due to the improper way he was appointed. Several new members of the Board of Commissioners have shown little respect for openness and fairness to the people of the county. Their actions will set back the county for a generation and seriously undermine Mr Gibbs' credibility. He is and will always be seen as complicit in the harm being done here.

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						<p>I am dismayed to hear about the changes you made during your first meeting of the year.</p> <p>I oppose the sudden firing of John Shay, who was hired after a lengthy public process, and had done nothing to deserve being let go. I oppose the appointment of John Gibbs, who lost his election in November and has been known to repeat untrue claims about the 2020 election and to post controversial statements online.</p> <p>I oppose the sudden firing of the county's health officer in order to hire someone opposed school mask mandates.</p> <p>I oppose the hiring a new legal counsel for the county unless a case can be made for why this should occur suddenly and behind closed doors.</p> <p>I oppose the elimination of the county's department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. EVERYONE should be made to feel welcome in Ottawa County, not only white, conservative, straight Christians.</p> <p>I steadfastly oppose changing the county vision statement from "Where you belong" to "Where freedom rings." The idea that "Where you belong" is Marxist and divisive is utter nonsense.</p> <p>I especially oppose the fact that these changes were pushed by a political action group (Ottawa Impact) who certainly do NOT speak for the majority of residents of Ottawa County. I am appalled that a number of new commissioners are, in fact, members and/or of Ottawa Impact.</p> <p>I am disappointed that none of these changes were on the public agenda that was published prior to the start of the public meeting, nor were they debated ahead of time. This is the opposite of transparency and responsible leadership.</p> <p>Sylvia Rhodea said, "And so out of respect for our voters and the need to have leadership in our county which fully aligns with the board of commissioners and who will cooperate, and work fully and transparently with the board of commissioners, we believe it's important to appoint John Gibbs." But fully aligning and cooperating with the board of commissioners should never be the goal.</p>
390	1/6/2023 16:32	Katie Poynter	Yes	Holland City	First County Commissioner meeting	
391	1/6/2023 16:52	Jim Hagen	Yes	Grand Haven City	Open Meeting Act and lack of democratic actions	<p>I'm very disappointed in the actions taken by the new board of commissioners. It was obvious that many of them violated the "Open Meeting Act" or at least its spirit by the fact that they had already agreed on and invited a new Administrator to the meeting before an official meeting had even taken place. They also did not seek public input on why a new administrator was needed or who it should be. Similarly they did not follow best practices when they decided to replace the county's legal representation and neither issued a RFP nor sought public input. A democracy is based on transparency and input from its constituents, something that to date has been severely lacking. The board of commissioners has already lost my trust by disregarding good government principles and established policies.</p>
392	1/6/2023 16:55	Joy Jonker	Yes	Park Township	Not my commissioner!	<p>How does the removal of a Dept for Diversity fit the slogan "Let Freedom Ring"? Isn't it supposed to be freedom and justice for ALL?</p>
393	1/6/2023 16:56	Dave Rozeboom	Yes	Jamestown Charter Township	Thank you	<p>Thank you for doing what you said when you ran for office. Keep up the good work and maybe we can get Ottawa County back to a God Fearing County. Go get them</p>
394	1/6/2023 16:57	John Cuperus	Yes	Park Township	Hiring oh John Gibbs	<p>I am disgusted by the newly elected commissioners actions. I believe this MAGA fantasy is causing great harm to our community and country. We should follow science and honest will of the people. I hope Gibbs and these other brainwashed individuals get repealed and rightfully replaced.</p> <p>The only good that comes out of these far right antics is their actions being brought to light and letting the people with common sense see that the republicans will stop at nothing to get their way.</p> <p>Shame on these commissioners. Shame on you.</p>
395	1/6/2023 16:58	Steve Nelson	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	john gibbs	<p>thanks for serving ottawa county</p>

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396	1/6/2023 17:04	DAN SERNICK	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	I'm very disappointed in the recent firings AND hiring's that took place last week. I believe that the previous administrators that were fired were working properly in my families behalf. The changes that have been made move our county backwards. Inclusion and caring for all types of people is a defining feature in growing as a society.
397	1/6/2023 17:08	Julie Risdon	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Unilateral changes to logo, hiring and firing	Iâ€™m incredibly shocked by the actions taken by this council. I expect that you would ask and listen to the community that you represent vs taking unilateral decisions that impact this community. Iâ€™m sure that action will be taken with the next voting cycle and your actions will not go unnoticed and will have consequences.
398	1/6/2023 17:09	Trump Sucks	Yes	Olive Township	Fascist Hard Right Bullshit	Horried to hear of the lack of decorum and decency from the new hard right Trump stains leading Ottawa county back to the dark ages.  Where "Freedom reigns" terror and fascism.
399	1/6/2023 17:10	Brian MacFadden	Yes	Robinson Township	Doing good	I like the changes that you guys are making and I hope you guys keep up the good work God bless the US
400	1/6/2023 17:28	David Johnson	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Ottawa Impact Group	Gibbs? Secret meeting, firing Shay with no class?No more diversity department? New health officer a joke! I am ashamed to be a resident. At least we have Bergman here in District 10. I hope some or all of the Ottawa Impact group resign out of embarrassment. Is there a way for us to impeach them?
401	1/6/2023 17:33	Deb Ralya	Yes	Holland City	Firing of previous county administrator	I'm appalled and embarrassed to live in a county whose commissioners with less than a few minutes in office fired without cause and justification an experienced county administrator. Those commissioners who voted to fire John Shay do not have my support. Nothing about how this was done conveys that you care about the foundation of OC services and programs and experience. Eliminating the DEI department was equally shortsighted. I'm proud to live in the city of Holland. I'm totally embarrassed right now to say I live in OC. I'm sure you will hear from me again.
402	1/6/2023 17:51	Susan Robertson	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Disgust with the rhetoric of incoming administrat	I knew that your administration would be bigoted and lawless and an affront to Christians everywhere. In just one day that has been shown to be true.
403	1/6/2023 17:53	Suzanne Stevens	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Not the right way to do things	Mr Gibbs, I believe you are a good person and hope you will listen to all of your constituents. I must speak up about the dismay and disgust I felt upon hearing about the abrupt and disrespectful changing of personnel and procedures at the January board meeting. You and the others must realize that correct and honorable procedure was not followed, and was not at all a democratic way to make changes. In fact the first word that came to mind while watching the news report was â€œslimeyâ€I hope you did not break any laws. If indeed you are a servant-hearted Christian, I wonder how you are truly feeling about what happened. My thoughts and feelings are that this was all very wrong, a very improper use of new power. Please examine through prayer and meditation how to fix these wrongs, and guide the other newly elected participants, because I think youâ€™ll likely be hearing more local constituents speak up about losing faith in our board of commissioners. Thank you for reading this, and I wish you well.

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						<p>I am appalled at what occurred at the recent board meeting. Making the changes you proposed and did will hurt us all.</p> <p>The health department courageously worked hard to protect the citizens of this county during an unprecedented time for this country. You are very wrong to replace its leader.</p> <p>Taking away a focus on inclusion as you have done is short cited and frankly bigoted. You are attempting to move this area backwards in several ways. The multicultural reality that exists here makes this area an attractive and enriched community to live. We need each other to thrive and we need to welcome, respect and come to understand those who are different from ourselves. We are a world economy, an interconnected world of nations and people--the spread of COVID 19 around the world is vivid evidence of that fact. We need to learn to get along, support, and sustain one another. We need to be inclusive.</p> <p>Your reactionary take over frightens me. You clearly have an agenda, one that I as a citizen of this county do not share. You are in a position of power and what you do affects a lot of people in all kinds of ways. The outcome of your decisions is your responsibility. Remember that. I do hope you will step back and consider the whole of the community of Ottawa County in future decisions that you make. I rather think it is your job to do so.</p> <p>Jude Vereyken</p>
404	1/6/2023 17:55	Jude Vereyken	Yes	Park Township	recent board meeting	
405	1/6/2023 18:02	William Wiersma	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Internet coverage	I would like to have internet service for my area on the edge of Grand Valley. 2 miles from GVSU. We live in a black hole.
406	1/6/2023 18:05	Michael Mooney	Yes	Park Township	County Commission	<p>The Facist organization called "Ottawa Impact" spouting their hate speech along with a "Christian Nationalist" Trump agenda has no place on our board. How the newly elected commissioners (that are part of this "Ottawa Impact" organization) handled the transition of the new board horrendously. All they want is like minded, anti-vax, anti-mask, anti-government, January 6 supporter, book burning, gun toting, homophobic, SO CALLED christian voices to be heard. These views are dangerous to our society and our Democracy! These views do not reflect the populace in our great county. How they handled the last board meeting re-enforced their trumpist agenda. People like this will be the downfall of our great county! I for one will fight this board with all my resources to see each and everyone of them defeated in the next election and will not pity them if and when they go to jail..</p>
						<p>You donâ€™t know me &amp; I donâ€™t know you, but Iâ€™ve done a bit of research after the action-packed meeting this week.</p> <p>Overall, I support the new makeup of the Board.</p> <p>Glad to see efforts to stop wokeness in its tracks. Glad the DEI nonsense is stopped.</p> <p>The public firing of the prior County Administrator was, however, bush league. I support the change in direction, but how he was terminated was wrong and petty.</p> <p>I also donâ€™t understand moving the legal work to a Lansing firm. This will add significant cost unnecessarily. Change firms, okay. Common sense of stewardship would lead to hiring a West Michigan firm. Miller Johnson and Warner Norcross come to mind.</p> <p>You all took a beating today at a West Coast Chamber meeting. I suggest you come to the next Chamber Advocacy meeting to field questions.</p>
407	1/6/2023 18:17	Steven Patterson	Yes	Park Township	Board Direction & Recent Actions	I support your direction, but please conduct yourselves with Christian decency that will earn respect.

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408	1/6/2023 18:28	Mark Glover	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	John Gibbs and Ottawa County Board	<p>I have enjoyed and proud to live in Ottawa County for over 30 years. I have never been more embarrassed and upset of local politics as you have demonstrated. I hope your actions are found illegal and all behind this coup end up in jail like your backer, Donald Trump.</p> <p>I want to thank our previous County Administrators and health department for keeping Ottawa County as safe as possible during the pandemic. Many of us and possibly you and your family are alive today from their following of proven and intelligent health recommendations.</p> <p>I am gravely concerned with this new board and thank you for triggering me to get involved with politics.</p>
409	1/6/2023 18:34	John Byrne	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board meeting	<p>Very disappointed with the first County board meeting output. It is SO obvious that the board is NOT acting in good faith and had pre-meeting and discussions on the motions that were executed.</p> <p>Shame on those involved. You made a laughingstock of the county I live in with the friends and family I have living in other Counties.</p>
410	1/6/2023 18:34	Margo Fisher	Yes	Holland City	Thrilled to have you.	Welcome to working with our residents of Ottawa county. We are thrilled to have you. Blessings to you for your future.
411	1/6/2023 18:36	Doc Daniel	Yes	Holland Charter Township	First Impressions	<p>I have been holding my opinions about the new Ottawa County commissioners until they had an opportunity to demonstrate how they will govern. The first meeting indicates that integrity is unlikely to be their top governing principal, but they do espouse a strong desire for freedom to be one. The Oxford dictionary definition is telling, "The power or right to act, speak or think as one wants." To put this word as the reigning vision of Ottawa County leads one to wonder how it may expose residents to harm since the power to act or speak as one wants can easily infringe upon and harm others and is not the same as "Liberty," which constrains individuals by the rights of others in the society to life, health, safety, speech, etc. "Freedom" is just a short step from "License", which is the ability to act without restraint. Time will tell if 9 of the 11 commissioners mean liberty, freedom or license - and which one they believe applies to them and which one to others.</p> <p>I would urge Chairperson Moss to be honorable about his social media accounts as an elected official who, especially because of his new position on the board, represents all residents of Ottawa County. If you have indeed deleted constituent followers from your account(s), as screen shots being shared on the internet attest, please demonstrate the "freedom" and "transparency" proclaimed and either restore those followers or delete your social media accounts. If the images are not true, please state so and provide evidence so that trust is not further undermined and you do not expose taxpayers to loss from potential legal challenges. I am not a lawyer, but I hear that the interactive portion of a public official's social media page is a "public forum" and the official can't block people from it because of the positions they hold or for criticizing the official.</p> <p>Along the lines of understanding proper conduct, the Board of Commissioners or their corporation counsel should educate Mr. Gibbs, their newly appointed County Administrator, on the purpose and rules of public meetings. Despite his short time working for the federal government, Mr. Gibbs does not seem to understand. Just as the officials carry out their elected business without interruption from meeting attendees, their public has an opportunity and right to provide comment without interruption. This was not Mr. Gibb's meeting, and he should not interrupt a constituent's comment. He has his own proper means to educate and inform residents.</p>
412	1/6/2023 18:38	Greg LaMore	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Recent hiring and firing of county administration	I am now officially embarrassed to say that I live in Ottawa County, run by a board whose members claim you be christians and believers in American democracy. What you have done and what you stand for is anything but democratic, moral, ethical or christian.
413	1/6/2023 18:40	Greg Mason	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	John Gibbs	Why has the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners hired somebody with such a blatant disregard for the US Constitution and Democracy? I'm concerned about the damage that Mr. Gibbs will cause while in this UNELECTED position of power.

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414	1/6/2023 18:46	Franklin Wilson	Yes	Park Township	Homelessness in Ottawa County.	I am hoping that the board is very familiar with the local Homeless Shelter in Holland. That is part of the reason I am writing. For those who aren't familiar with the Gateway Mission I think it would be very beneficial for you to come individually (or as a Group) and tour the Mission. It is one of the best homeless shelters in the entire United States. Their slogan is "Hope Found Here", and is supported by many, many of your constituent's, friends and family. Ottawa County is a beautiful place to live and I am very proud to not only be a resident my entire life, but also be connected first hand with other residents who show their tender love to those less fortunate. I am blown away by all the folks that are trying to help each other out and are part of the many local non-profits that exist to assist and care. It speaks volumes about who we are as a community... its our heartbeat. Schedule your tour today by calling (616)396-2200.
415	1/6/2023 19:21	dan kiel	Yes	Holland Charter Township	freedom	So if a school decides to mask because of sicknesses, does your "freedom" overrule and not allow the board to exercise their free rights?
416	1/6/2023 19:25	Paula Brink	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Ottawa County shake-up!	My best to you Mr. Gibbs, but I don't think anyone appreciated the way it happened. I'm a Democrat and was a voter inspector. Decided to quit because of all the political Republican rhetoric and the blind leading the blind. The GOP is broken as proved by the latest fiasco, picking a Speaker of House. The 20 holding up the process have no integrity or character. I hope you can prove you are better than that.
417	1/6/2023 19:28	Deb Siegersma	Yes	Georgetown Township	John Gibbs	I am appalled at the actions of the Ottawa County board. What kind of shady actions took place for this to happen? I am horrified. Ottawa County is a very diverse county; to eliminate the Dept of Diversity is wrong on so many levels.  Who approved spending Half a million tax dollars to fire the current office holders?  Please don't invoke God's name and ask for His blessing to further your narrow minded agenda.  Ottawa County will always be "Where you belong" I don't want your brand of "Freedom"
418	1/6/2023 19:35	Gretchen Starr	Yes	Holland City	Board Actions at January 4, 2023 Meeting	The appointment of Nate Kelly as the county health officer has to be the most embarrassing and ridiculous thing I have ever seen. I am a pharmaceutical research scientist, and to think that he represents any type of scientific health authority is not even able to be comprehended. Those on the board that sneakily engineered this are an embarrassment to the people of Ottawa County.
419	1/6/2023 19:37	Melissa Geerts	Yes	Hudsonville City	OI Concerns	Ottawa County is in dangerous hands with Joe Moss and the other Ottawa Impact affiliated commissioners. My family values diversity, education and honesty. The platform that my commissioner (Moss) ran on and the agenda he is trying to push is not representative of myself or my family. The decisions made this week have completely eroded any trust that I have in the board as a whole.
420	1/6/2023 19:39	david strazinski	Yes	Ferrysburg City	A poor choice	We need someone who wants the job. The position should not be a political consolation prize to a failed candidate. Easier to own the libs than find a qualified candidate.
421	1/6/2023 19:49	None of your Business	No		You should all be ashamed	The dirty behind the public view of the actions of the newly elected board of commissioners is shameful. I have always been proud of how this county was governed for the 20 years that I have lived in Ottawa county. I can no longer say this and am very concerned about that the new board will destroy this county.
422	1/6/2023 20:00	Whittaker Sheila	Yes	Grand Haven City	John gibbs	Who elected this guy to this man? He represents everyone but woman because they are worthless. According to Mr Gibbs woman should not be voting or having any jobs. Who elected him. Not me
423	1/6/2023 20:02	Jennafer Fisher	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Ottawa Co Impact	The recent abrupt change of power is a dangerous move that is setting precedent for mass takeovers whenever one party doesn't like how something is going, vs finding ways to work together for the common good of all people that reside in a community together. Having differences of opinions and views is healthy when it comes to power and politics. This Ottawa Impact is extremely concerning and the beginning of extremist in our own community. Their objectives are not for "the people" of the community, but rather for the people who agree with their ideals. This should not be ok by any standards of a believer or non-believer. Religious leadership has never been the goal of the Bible. If it was, Jesus would have come as a king that took over and ruled over all by force. Religious freedom is a freedom for those that believe like us and those that don't. I truly hope this isn't the beginning of a very bad future for this county with these take over tactics.

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424	1/6/2023 20:18	Brenda Tower	Yes	Georgetown Township	Disgusted	Every one of the Ottawa Impact members should be ashamed of themselves. You claim to act in the name of Christ but your actions could not be more distant from his teachings. I'm embarrassed to know some in the group and hope that you will all come to know the Jesus that you claim to serve. The one who sought out the underdog and commanded care of the poor, widows and orphans. The one who if he was here in the flesh would champion a community that celebrates inclusion and diversity and not blatantly disregard and alienate those that are different than him. The one who taught us to love our enemies and not judge others lest we be judged. I'm embarrassed to live in Ottawa County. And I'm saddened that you all are soiling the reputation of Christ followers everywhere. Please do better! People are watching you.
425	1/6/2023 20:40	William Beiswenger	Yes	Park Township	County issues please	As a resident and constituent, I would ask you to please simply focus on county issues. There are so many challenges, issues, problems to keep you busy enough to not be sidetracked by irrelevant MAGA concerns, like who won the 2020 elections. Ottawa is a wonderful vibrant growing county. Don't bring us down with negativity. Look to the future. Also.... the new Health officer is in no way quantified. Show respect for yourself and your county by getting rid of him. Thank you. William Beiswenger
426	1/6/2023 20:57	Joan Bass	Yes	Hudsonville City	Hello and welcome	Thanks to the new commissioners and John Gibbs for leading Ottawa county. I've been a resident 34 years. I'm looking forward to your leadership in the future. Thank you for focusing on what is important in Ottawa county. A welcoming place for all.
427	1/6/2023 20:59	Kenneth Haraburda	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Gibbs appointment	Why was Gibbs given this position? We just had an election, and he lost. I don't think the people of Ottawa county want him.
428	1/6/2023 21:10	Stacy McKinney	Yes	Georgetown Township	Bring back DEI	Please consider bringing back the DEI department in the spirit of the inclusive community we all love.
429	1/6/2023 21:27	Carlene Habian	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	Please stop what you are doing !!!	Who do you people think you are !!!!! You do not represent the people of our community !!! You are all terrible people and please stop and go away !!! Far away from our community
430	1/6/2023 21:41	Paul Hudson	Yes	Crockery Township	The new board of commissioners and county administ	As an American and resident of Ottawa County I, along with millions of other Americans, have been frustrated and concerned about the increasing intentional attacks on the foundations of this great and unique nation! Inherent in the design of our constitutional republic is the fact that the power in that republic rests with the people. That is why it is so important to understand that the solution to our dilemma will not come from our elected representatives, but from the people themselves. That's why it is so encouraging to see the recent swearing in of a constitutional, America first board of commissioners and county administrator! God bless, and Godspeed! Put on the full armor of God daily, because this battle is just beginning, and it is not against flesh and blood as you know!
431	1/6/2023 21:43	Donald VanderKuyll	Yes	Blendon Township	Joe Gibbs	God Bless you as you assume your new position.
432	1/6/2023 21:51	Daniel Zimmer	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	POWER GRAB	Members not sworn into office hold clandestine meeting(s) prior to being sworn in to skirt around open public meetings. Wow that seems on the up and up for party payola.  To:miag@michigan.gov I am an informed resident of Ottawa County Michigan. It is no stretch of the imagination as to what is occurring in recent events, it is nothing but political PAYOLA. These actions are not good government ! The Republican party mantra is to take power by force, coercion and collusion. This must not be allowed.Â Concerned Citizen.

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						<p>When you run on a campaign of transparency, and promptly remove all transparency in actual action, you lost all credibility with the constituency.</p> <p>Removing all rules and acting without any regard for the respect for the rules and regulations of office, you lost credibility.</p> <p>Fully disbanding a county office that impacts business and income into the county (DEI) and that is important to a majority of the residents in the county, you lost credibility. Our county is not made up of all white, straight Christian people.</p> <p>Removing officers without cause through illegal procedures, you lost credibility.</p> <p>Running for office because you felt unheard and didn't agree with the policies enacted by the former commissioners, and promptly disallow others to not contribute to open dialogue, you lose credibility.</p> <p>Hiring a law firm that only supports your viewpoints, you lose credibility.</p> <p>Hiring a former Senator that could not be re-elected after running on a campaign of misogyny and government interference with individual rights over their own bodies after accusing the former Board of the same, you lost credibility.</p> <p>Growth only occurs when you are able to experience and learn from those with differing viewpoints. We never win by silencing the opposition. We are wings of the same bird. Honest and open discourse is the only successful path forward.</p> <p>Seeking feedback and opinions from those most marginalized in the community is a path forward- we are one body.</p> <p>Your first week in office has resulted in significant distrust of any action you make in the future.</p>
433	1/6/2023 22:01	Angela Reed	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Credibility	Intelligence relies on observing your own experiences and opinions, hearing and listening to the experience of others and changing
434	1/6/2023 22:05	Elka Deede	Yes	Park Township	Representing all of Ottawa County	<p>I appreciate that you have taken the time to introduce yourself to the residents of Ottawa County and inform us of your background. I hope that you will avail yourself of some information about the residents you now represent as you not only do not live in Ottawa County but you have not been a resident of The state of Michigan until recently. I want to underline the idea that you represent ALL of the people of this county and are responsible to make decisions in our best interests. I am concerned that you and your fellow new officials will be focused on the right wing agenda that you obviously strongly believe in as demonstrated during your campaign. For instance, the previous Public Health Department officials made decisions based on the science of Covid and I fear you will be ruled by ideology instead of real facts that will keep us all safe. The people of this county deserve a government that will implement rules and regulations that benefit all of us equally. We hope and pray you will think of the ideals of our wonderful country, state and county and uphold all the laws as well as the values as you carry out your duties.</p>
435	1/6/2023 22:25	Jessica Trusty	Yes	Holland City	OC lack of brain power	<p>Dissolving the inclusive and diversity panel is really a step backwards. We should be open and accepting to all. You say you want freedoms yet take stances against people having the same rights as you, just because you disagree with them.</p> <p>Keep your "Christianity" out of our counties politics! We don't need Jesus, we just need those of you who claim to worship him to act like him - offering love, acceptance, and compassion to those who have less than you.</p> <p>Please, for the good of this county, take a step back and reconsider the waves you've triggered this week. Ottawa County is angry, like when the women marched up river avenue in support of Roe v Wade.</p> <p>Use the force for good. This is the way.</p>
436	1/6/2023 23:03	Not good	Yes	Holland City	NO TO GIBBS	WRONG OF YOU ALL TO TAKE AWAY DIVERSITY AND EQUITY THATS WHAT MADE OTTAWA STRONG AND WELL A BLACK GUY COMING IN ACTING LIKE HES WHITE WTF GIBBS LOOK AT UR SKIN COLOR UR A MINORITY GET IT TOGETHER RACIST AAND SEXIST GIBBS

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437	1/6/2023 23:10	Michelle Sheridan	Yes	Holland City	Gibbs appointment	I am thoroughly disgusted with the hostile take over of the Ottawa County Administration position and immediately shutting down the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; this is unconscionable. Equality hurts no one! What are you all so afraid of? Every human being has a right to express their point of view, but it is not ok to use your power to suppress others. I, for one, will be sure to show up at meetings held by this commission. I will not now, will I ever, support this kind of facism, racism, lack of inclusion and blatant tactics to skirt the legal means of true Democracy.
438	1/6/2023 23:11	Robert King	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Sudden and Radical Changes by Board	I am a long-standing Ottawa County resident, and I definitely consider myself conservative. That said, I consider it irresponsible, ill-advised, and ultra-political to implement sudden firings and other actions that cater to the conservative right wing. You don't know our county well enough to be commissioners if you think everyone agrees with you. Please represent all of us, not just those who adhere to your narrow political views. To pick a health director who is totally at odds with CDC is irresponsible. I don't always agree with the CDC, but to select somebody who is so at odds with the official medical leaders of your country is foolish and arrogant, and shows a lack of regard for the health of Ottawa County residents.
439	1/6/2023 23:19	Christi Meppelink	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Support	I just wanted to take a moment to send a message to say thank you for being willing to step up and bring constitutional leadership to Ottawa County. You are appreciated and supported by many people throughout this county!
440	1/6/2023 23:44	Daniel Feenstra	Yes	Georgetown Township	Possible Illegal Action	Based on the possible illegal action taken by members of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners last week will the members of the Board not privy to those pre-planed decisions cooperate with the Michigan Attorney Generals Office if contacted by them?
441	1/7/2023 0:15	Karen Neuman	Yes	Park Township	Ottawa Impact, John Gibbs	This is so wrong. John Gibbs is an abomination to women. I look forward to the Ottawa Impact commissioners having to answer to Dana Nessel for their complete lack of transparency and both legal and ethical violations, not to mention the waste of \$300k+ in taxpayer funds. These actions are already negatively impacting - pun intended - business activity and growth in the county. Shame on you all.
442	1/7/2023 0:19	Kristia Cnossen	Yes	Park Township	Appalled	<p>I am appalled that a far-right MAGA supporter has been installed as county administrator and that that the DEI function has been dismantled. Evelyn was quoted as saying thatâ€™s sheâ€™s heard of â€œ stories of people applying for jobs and they told them they couldnâ€™t get hired because they were white.â€œReally??? â€œHeard of???â€œ</p> <p>Ottawa County is very diverse and includes many respected companies that employ people of varied backgrounds. I work for one of the largest companies in Ottawa County, and John Gibbs does not reflect who we are as a company. He does not reflect the people of Ottawa County with his far-right, ultra-conservative beliefs. I thought Ottawa County was better than this. Very, very sad day for the people of Ottawa County.</p>
443	1/7/2023 3:00	ken scheibach	Yes	Georgetown Township	New county administrator John Gibbs	Did Mr. Gibbs compete with any other candidates for the very important position of Ottawa County Administrator? If so, was the competition made public? Mr. Gibbs has no experience as a County Administrator. The citizens, of this great county, one of Michigan's largest with a park system second to none and a very functional county government, deserve to have the best Administrator. Furthermore Mr. Gibbs HUD experience he declares as recent experience occurred from Mar 2020 to January 2021 less than 1 year.
444	1/7/2023 6:16	David VanDyke	No		Elections	<p>I would like John Gibbs to publicly state that the Presidential election of 2020 was legitimate. There was no fraud. Trump lost fair and square. Over 60 Federal Court cases confirmed Trumpâ€™s defeat. I was born and raised in Ottawa County. My family still lives here. Why would John Gibbs take a job seemingly way below your experience level? To stir the pot of false information? Ottawa County beware of the motives of John Gibbs and his followers. The GOP will keep losing national elections because extremists like John Gibbs.</p> <p>David VanDyke</p>
445	1/7/2023 6:32	Lawrence Amante	Yes	Georgetown Township	Republican crap goes on	What kind of crap is this
446	1/7/2023 6:46	Bill Cate	Yes	Ferrysburg City	Welcome	Mr. Gibbs: I, for one, am happy to have you as the Ottawa County Administrator. I would have rather had you for my Congressional Representative, but we know how what worked out. As a member of the Ferrysburg City Council, I invite you to attend and introduce yourself to us at one of our regular meetings. We meet on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at Ferrysburg City Hall, 17290 Roosevelt Rd, Ferrysburg.
447	1/7/2023 7:16	Paul Wiers	Yes	Olive Township	Support for new board leadership and direction	<p>Please do bring a more rational and conservative approach to running our county.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership.</p>

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448	1/7/2023 7:32	Sheri Greenberger	Yes	Holland City	Disgust with the actions of the new council	<p>I am Very Disturbed by the actions of the newly elected council and the hiring of John Gibbs.</p> <p>I Did NOT vote for any of the new members precisely because of their absurd platform and 'plan' for Ottawa county.</p> <p>I felt the Health Department did a wonderful job during the time of covid crisis when everyone was learning and trying to help with a NOVEL infection. ie no one knew anything about it at first and since knowledge was changing, planning and procedures needed to change and evolve. The emails with information and graphs were fantastic!</p> <p>A Diversity department is a GOOD thing. I have lived here since 1994. The area has started to become a better place for all. But many old bias's and religious intolerances still exist.</p> <p>Teaching people a full view of the past is necessary. There are many sides to all stories and if we did not know about the bad as well as the good we can not hope to improve ourselves. Don't be so thin skinned when learning something about our past that disturbs you - learn more, don't run away!!</p> <p>The change to the motto - How Stupid</p> <p>The whole world and life is not centered around religion. I do not appreciate it being thrown in my face all the time. Many intolerances start from/with the base of religion behind them.</p> <p>Over all Ottawa County has been a nice place to live and work. But I am very worried that under your leadership it will become a place that I Do NOT care to live in.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sheri Greenberger</p>
449	1/7/2023 8:23	Daniel Dennis	Yes	Hudsonville City	Disgust	<p>I am disgusted by the recent actions of this new township board. You do not have my support and I am appalled by the actions you take - in the name of God - Let Freedom Ring is a joke. The only way you let freedom ring is when it matches your narrow definition of it.</p>
450	1/7/2023 8:28	Wendy VanHoven	Yes	Holland City	Hiring of John Gibbs and schedule of public mtgs.	<p>I am writing this to the board because their decided meeting schedule, of every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm, does not coordinate with my schedule, or that of many of their constituents. This convenient schedule for the board makes it nearly impossible for their constituents to attend the meetings in person to raise concerns or objections, such as the one I am about to now.</p> <p>I vehemently oppose the hiring of John Gibbs as the new Ottawa County Board of Commissions Administrator. He is not a resident of this community and does not represent the values of it. The fact that the hiring and firing of the administrators was not even on the meeting agenda, did not even give the community the opportunity to raise objections.</p> <p>This was a completely dirty and underhanded approach that someone on the board used to make sure their personal agenda would be achieved. They give us an indication of what that agenda might be in the elimination of the Diversity and Inclusion program and the change in county's motto. Though sounding innocuous enough, it has clear MAGA undertones.</p> <p>If this is the direction of the new Board, I have severe concerns about its leadership.</p>

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						<p>Good morning:</p> <p>I am a 40 year Jenison resident who is very sad and upset to see the new County board take drastic and (possibly) illegal actions at their first meeting. I don't believe you were acting in the interest of your constituents and the entire county - it appears you had a personal vendetta to carry out.</p> <p>Please step back and consider the message you have just sent to the residents: rules don't matter, everyone is NOT considered equally important (only those who feel the same as you do personally), and employees are not valued (they are dismissed without cause or notice). As a professional employee, I would not think ANYONE would want to work for the county based on your recent governance. As a resident, I am dismayed that uneducated thoughts would be used to steer the ship. How many of you are medical professionals? If you have cancer or heart disease - would you trust a safety officer of a public company to run your medical care? I don't think so. Yet you have allowed your personal opinions on public health to override common medical research. Although this change may not affect many of us who have private insurance, the public health system serves so many who are needy and underserved/cannot afford private health insurance. We need wise guidance in the public health administration - everyone deserves the best health care regardless of if it is private or public. I have had to use the public health department before and I certainly wouldn't want it run by a HVAC safety officer.</p> <p>You have also sent a negative message with the drastic change of the logo. Not only is this an expensive venture (for all of you who say you are financially conservative), but you obviously didn't rely on any public relations/marketing firm. We all assume we live in a country where freedom rings, but why does anyone want to live in Ottawa County? "Where you belong" truly reflects the feeling that we HAD here - a welcoming community with affordable housing and great resources. Not sure that is what the future holds here.</p> <p>Please do your homework before making decisions and consider all sides. The best leaders are servant leaders: leaders who listen, not dictate; leaders who care about the overall good, not their own; leaders who rely on professionals, not on their biased opinions. Your recent actions make me believe Ottawa County will no longer be the fastest growing county - but rather the fastest exodus county. I know I'm considering it.</p>
451	1/7/2023 10:19	Sandy Kiel	Yes	Georgetown Township	Recent Ottawa Board actions	
452	1/7/2023 10:29	Kathleen Golaszewski	Yes	Holland City	Administration Changes	I am very disturbed and disappointed by the backdoor changes made at the last commission meeting. Ottawa Impact is a scourge on our community. We can and must do better than this.
453	1/7/2023 11:12	Greg TenBrink	Yes	Park Township	Leadership	John, thankful for your leadership in Ottawa County! Appreciate your heart and desire to serve the people in our county! Greg
454	1/7/2023 11:16	Ann Schipper	No		Re John Gibbs's Greeting	<p>Dear Mr Gibbs,</p> <p>I am not pleased with your new position. I did not vote for you in the last election because of your far-right, dangerous ideas and connections. And I am a product of Christian schools/colleges. I consider myself to be a conservative centralist.</p> <p>How you got this position and one of the first acts of your commission do not bode well for the people of Ottawa Cty. Those who are not the "elites" obsessed with money and power will almost certainly not receive the attention and representation they deserve. I hope and pray my prediction does not become reality. But I am not holding my breath re your "promise" to "drive Ottawa Ct forward."</p> <p>Your use of the word "drive" was quite telling.</p>
455	1/7/2023 11:34	Ann Hughes	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	The recent board meeting	As a resident of Ottawa County, I must express my disappointment in the recent conduct of this board. Shenanigans- puts it mildly! I fear for what the future brings to this single minded commission - certainly not the well-being of their entire population.

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456	1/7/2023 12:02	Emily Frye	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Jon Gibbs	<p>Well, John Gibbs, I know I won't be the first to tell you this, but I am far from celebrating the change in County Administrator, nor the outrageous takeover that has occurred in the last week. The speed and irresponsibility of changes is shocking and an embarrassment.</p> <p>Please know that I will be doing everything in my power to limit the damage you and the Ottawa Impact-backed commissioners will do to our county.</p> <p>Sincerely, Emily Frye (An actual resident of this town) unlike youâ€™.</p>
457	1/7/2023 12:17	Scott Vredevoogd	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board	<p>If I had known the underhanded plan you had for governance (voting on things not on agenda without proper public discussion) I would have voted for all democrats instead of some of each. WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN. Shouldn't be surprised though seeing who you had waiting in the wings for administrator. This is the kind of thing the trump you worship would do. Creating your own democratic way of doing things shouldn't happen. This kind of thing is why I recently changed from being a lifelong republican to the Democratic party. Today's republicans have lost their moral and ethical compass.</p>
458	1/7/2023 12:29	Aileen and D Joe VanderSchoor	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Firing of John Shay on January 3, 2023	<p>Dear Ottawa County Commissioners,</p> <p>We are very disappointed in the board's firing of Mr John Shay, the Ottawa County Administrator, who has done a great job as the Administrator. Also disappointed with changing of the County Motto and the removal of the DEI.</p> <p>Sincerely, Aileen and D Joe VanderSchoor</p>
459	1/7/2023 12:53	Vickie Moran	Yes	Hudsonville City	committee takeover	<p>I'm not sure how this was a legal takeover! I'm not happy about how all this was planned. Also the Health director you have appointed is just not qualified for this position. I'm a RN and his views are not based on science, and I would like to have seen him in the hospitals working with the nurses taking care of the people dying every day. Many dying themselves. I don't have any faith in future decisions made by this board or the Health director.</p>
460	1/7/2023 13:01	John Madison	Yes	Holland City	Senior socialization lunch program.	<p>I eat lunch at Evergreen Commons and participate in the country socialization program. Next month I'm informed that the program is cut to soup or a sandwich. I also got a very colorful news letter saying the county just received 43 million dollars and it looked like they didn't know what to spend it on.</p> <p>I'm wondering if the socialization lunch program might be a good choice.</p>
461	1/7/2023 13:12	Bill Bryker	Yes	Georgetown Township	General	<p>I am thrilled to have John Gibbs at the helm of Ottawa county. We are living in crazy times, and I simply want security, religious freedom and continue live to in a conservative community that emphasizes family values. I expect John to stand up to anything from Lansing that attempts to undermine these core values. Regards, Bill</p>
462	1/7/2023 13:17	Andrew Kinsler	Yes	Park Township	Unacceptable conduct. Does not represent Ottawa Co	<p>The recent hostile takeover is simply unacceptable. The 5-hour meeting contained several illegal actions and references to other illegal and inappropriate situations. For example, no contracts should have been visible to any elected official before being sworn in. Transparency was the major campaign watchword, yet several non-agenda items blindsided officials and onlookers. There is zero evidence to support the dissolution of the DEI team, and coupled with the rebranding that removes "Where You Belong," this action speaks volumes about the beliefs and mission of the new elects. None of these actions represent the majority of Ottawa County residents. Instead, this showcases the radical viewpoints of a vocal few. We do not need or want science deniers in leadership, and we certainly do not want the eyes of the Nation on our county for these controversial actions. Ottawa county is better than this.</p>
463	1/7/2023 13:19	Barbara Koning	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Reaction to last board meeting activities	<p>I would like you to know I am very upset at the actions this Board took in changing our county's motto and dismantling the Department of DEI, the replacement of the County Administrator and the Health Director. These actions do not represent me as a life long resident of Ottawa County and a Republican and a Christ-follower. Barbara Koning</p>

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464	1/7/2023 13:55	Beth Buning	Yes	Jamestown Charter Township	Recent Board Actions	I am very concerned about the firing of the county administrator and health officer, as well as elimination of the department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This may be what some want, but it definitely does not represent the interests of many county residents. These sudden moves are not an open and transparent way of running this county. These changes should have been on the public agenda. I keep reading statements that this is the will of the voters. Not all of us. Please be more transparent going forward
465	1/7/2023 14:34	Clare Heyboer	Yes	Holland Charter Township	John Gibbs	Are you pleased with the way you came to this position? You must be as crooked as the rest of the new commissioners, and their misguided values. Heaven help us. The actions taken at the first meeting are appalling, and send the wrong message to our county and to the entire state of Michigan. You are not the person we need in our county.
466	1/7/2023 15:39	Micheal Wise	Yes	Park Township	Qualifications and Goal Planning	It's my understanding that Mr Gibbs currently resides in Kent County. How does an outside county resident have our counties best interest in mind? Given that Mr. Gibbs qualifications appear to be overly qualified for the position, what guarantees do we have that he has all county residents best interest in mind and not just a few, and won't make changes that create more problems and then ditch the first chance he gets?
467	1/7/2023 16:48	Nathan Adamczyk	Yes	Robinson Township	County Commissioners Meeting	Just wanted to thank the county commissioners that started to do the things that We The People voted you in for. Change isn't easy but it's the change we voted for. Great Job. Keep up the great work. You are in our prayers.
468	1/7/2023 17:13	Kevin Derr	Yes	Holland City	New County Administrator	Not sure why we hire a non-Ottawa county resident for this position. He should be expected to move into the county he works for. Every decision he makes needs to affect his family, just like the families that will be affected in Ottawa county.
469	1/7/2023 17:49	Daniel Wolfe	No		I live in Muskegon County.	Why did I receive your email?
470	1/7/2023 18:26	Mark Stucy	No		Questions for commissioners	<a href="https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Gibbs_(government_official)">https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Gibbs_(government_official)</a>  The first 5 sentences of this link make this man the worst selection for your board.  How could anyone elect this man after he was a Trump pawn?  Why would you elect someone that has proven to lie to the public?  He promotes false claims on his social media and also participated in the January 6th coup attempt. Why was he chosen?
471	1/7/2023 18:46	Patty Redeker	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Appointment of John Gibbs	I recently received an email from John Gibbs stating he'd like to introduce himself. I already know enough about him and his thoughts about women that I didn't vote for him. His views on women are not welcomed in the United States. Maybe he's a time traveler but is stuck in the 1800s. He's not welcomed in Ottawa County.
472	1/7/2023 18:58	Jack Glass	Yes	Georgetown Township	Latest board meeting	How in the world does John Gibbs get to be our county administrator? Does he know anything about our county? Obviously some very questionable things happened at last weeks board meeting! We ask only that you operate with integrity. It does not sound like that happened last week.
473	1/7/2023 19:50	Raechel Haller	Yes	Holland Charter Township	High Cost and Short Sighted Actions	The decisions and actions made by the new Commissioners during the last board meeting come at a high cost to residents, including the tangible immediate expense of frivolously changing the county's motto and the long-term ramifications of stifling DEI progress. It's both a moral and economical imperative to promote inclusion WHERE YOU BELONG.
474	1/7/2023 20:08	Jeanne Lutz	Yes	Robinson Township	Wonderful first meeting of the year!	I cannot describe how optimistic I am after watching the new board meeting to finally be a representative of my family! These new people are saying everything that resonates with me and mine. They are bringing back the core values of Ottawa county. We are God loving, obedient people who love free speech and hold the constitution as supreme law of our land. How we have gotten so far off the rails is beyond me but I thank God that He heard our prayers here and allowed true patriots to lead us in my beloved Ottawa county.

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						<p>I have not, nor will ever be on board with the mission of Ottawa Impact. The new commissioners, now the majority of the commission, I believe are all associated with Ottawa Impact. And the way they acted at the meeting by changing the agenda last-minute to include the decisions made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-to fire (unjustly) Shay and replace him with Gibbs without proper procedures being followed,</li> <li>-to shut down the DEI office, which has been helping our business community recruit diverse and qualified employees, and attracts people to our county,</li> <li>-to replace the head of the Health Department with someone who is on video mocking a sign language interpreter and spread COVID-19 conspiracies,</li> <li>-to change our wonderful and welcoming motto of Where You Belong to Where Freedom Rings</li> </ul> <p>Were disgraceful and distasteful.</p> <p>I do not agree with any of those decisions and you represent me too. You all need to hear this from me as an Ottawa County resident.</p> <p>Not only do I think many of these actions were not made in love, which as a follower of Christ I feel is important, but I also think these decisions will be horrible for the financial well-being of our entire county.</p> <p>I hope you can do and be better in the future and not drive our beautiful county into the ground in more ways than one.</p> <p>"They will know you are Christians by your love" is a song I have sung in my faith community/journey a lot. I know Ottawa Impact people claim to be Christians, but I do not see evidence of the sacrificial love that Jesus calls his followers to do in their platform nor in what happened last week. In my opinion, those of you in Ottawa Impact are hurting the Christian witness to others and it makes me so sad and embarrassed. We have to do better to spread Jesus' love. He ate and hung out with the least of these. Remember and think about the least of us when you are making decisions. A community is only as healthy as the most vulnerable person in it.</p>
475	1/7/2023 20:40	Julie Phillips	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Disgust and disappointment	We can be better.
476	1/7/2023 22:57	Deborah VanWoerkom	Yes	Park Township	changes with the new Ottawa County Commission	What happened to public opinion? I am totally disgusted with a few individuals who think they know what everyone else thinks. I am associated with the CRC and I DO NOT AGREE with their views even though some misguided individual announcing the CRC agrees with the Ottawa County Commission on Wood TV Channel 8 News.
477	1/7/2023 23:08	Deborah VanWoerkom	Yes	Park Township	Ottawa County Commission	What were you thinking by all these changes without any accountability? I cannot believe this. Someone on TV Wood News interviewed a man who said this agrees with one of many groups including the CRC members who believes in these values - well WE DO NOT.
478	1/7/2023 23:58	Susanna Childress Banner	Yes	Holland City	Concerning decisions of board take over	By dismantling the DEI office, and changing the motto to "Where Freedom Rings," this group of commissioners is not only not representing their constituents' desires but doing real harm to and in this county. It's not okay, and we are not fooled. You can expect real and consistent opposition to every move like those you've just made.
479	1/8/2023 7:26	Lanna Fedewa	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Wrong for Ottawa County	We made it clear with our Votes, we don't want Gibbs in Michigan. I especially don't want you in Ottawa County. This is my county of 57 years, you don't belong here. We don't want your Hate. I'm quite hopeful this error will be looked into.
						Thank you, Mr. Gibbs, for sending your background info to the people of Ottawa County. I was amazed to see such a diverse background! Japanese, serving those who are homeless, tech knowledge and a rich educational history--we hit the jackpot with you! And a person of Faith, which aligns with many in the area. I hope you have a good experience here in West Michigan. I have only been a resident here since 2018, but I've enjoyed so much the county has to provide. I'll be looking forward to seeing what you contribute to life in Ottawa County.
480	1/8/2023 7:48	Cynthia Pollet	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Welcome, John Gibbs	The sun may not be shining, but may God's face shine upon you here! Cynthia Pollet
481	1/8/2023 7:50	Robert Veihl	Yes	Grand Haven City	John "the carpet baggin" Gibbs	Thanks for pulling a non-Ottawa resident into our county to help all of us figure out what we have been doing wrong. Just remember, votes happen every few years.

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482	1/8/2023 9:07	PALASEK	No		John Gibbs	This is all so wrong. We recently moved from Ottawa County after 30 years into kent County. But what happened at that first meeting was unbelievable. The people of Ottawa County are better than that. Something is wrong . Maybe it's just the mindset of those far right Republicans. Fire the health director?? Omg my kids were in school at that time and I felt safe for them because of our health department rules. As well as the rest of the country and Whole World's views at that time. Guess I'm glad we moved out of Ottawa now. Gibbs will have to move in now. Just all so sad and wrong
483	1/8/2023 9:42	Kim Nagy	Yes	Georgetown Township	Financial Stewardship	What is the projected cost for changing the County motto from "Where You Belong" to "Where freedom rings"? Given the limited opportunity for public comment prior to this change, will the public bear the cost of changing signage, letterhead, business cards, etc? I am not aware of a public movement to change our motto, no letters to the editor, no Face Book groups, therefore this cost seems imprudent without buy-in from the community.
484	1/8/2023 9:56	Forrest Johnson	Yes	Robinson Township	A word of welcome	A hardy welcome to Mr. Gibbs I wish you were in Washington but I am really pleased to have you here. Also congratulations to all of our new board members on your election, and a great choice on Mr. Gibbs. Now it's time to get to work. Good luck
485	1/8/2023 12:50	Joanne Kay Lamar	Yes	Holland City	New boards actions	I am beyond disappointed at the actions taken unannounced at the first board meeting. I feel as though there will NOT be equal representation from this board and I will be watching closely to see how we can fix this sad situation.
486	1/8/2023 13:32	Marlene Horner	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Ottawa Co. Bd, of Comm. Mtg, 1/3/23	My husband and I have lived in District 10 of Ottawa County for 33 years and have yet to witness such undemocratic and foolish behavior as that of the Ottawa impact members during the recent meeting on Jan. 3. Their behavior was appalling and we are heartened to see that our attorney general's office is looking into their actions as they pertain to the Open Meetings Act. We are truly grateful to have Mr. Roger Bergman as our Commissioner!
487	1/8/2023 13:50	Nancy Foster	Yes	Robinson Township	Not pleased	I share Roger Bergmans concern that such swift actions have taken place by the new board and want it know that I certainly do not share their beliefs. I completely disagree about getting rid of the new diversity personnel. I also highly disagree about the appointment of Kelly as the head of the health dept. He has no qualifications that I know of for the job and bases his beliefs in non science based conspiracy theories. I also am against your firing of John Shay and appointment of John Gibbs , a Trump supporter who lost in the election. Your actions as the board are NOT applauded by me. You did not get my vote and you will not get my approval!
488	1/8/2023 14:31	Devin O'Meara	Yes	Holland City	Recent sacking of John Shay	I find it disheartening to hear of the recent sacking of John Shay and the hiring of John Gibbs. I would hazard a guess that there will be a severance package paid out to Mr. Shay. If there is, I would like the severance garnished out of the commissioners compensation that voted to sack him. It is not right for the taxpayers to shoulder the burden of their financial fiasco.

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						<p>Dear Mr. Gibbs and other commissioners,</p> <p>I am dismayed to hear about the changes you made during your first meeting of the year.</p> <p>I oppose the sudden firing of John Shay, who was hired after a lengthy public process, and had done nothing to deserve being let go. I oppose the appointment of John Gibbs, who lost his election in November and has been known to repeat untrue claims about the 2020 election and to post controversial statements online.</p> <p>I oppose the sudden firing of the county's health officer in order to hire someone opposed school mask mandates.</p> <p>I oppose the hiring a new legal counsel for the county unless a case can be made for why this should occur suddenly and behind closed doors.</p> <p>I oppose the elimination of the county's department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. EVERYONE should be made to feel welcome in Ottawa County, not only white, conservative, straight Christians.</p> <p>I steadfastly oppose changing the county vision statement from "Where you belong" to "Where freedom rings." The idea that "Where you belong" is Marxist and divisive is utter nonsense.</p> <p>I especially oppose the fact that these changes were pushed by a political action group (Ottawa Impact) who certainly do NOT speak for the majority of residents of Ottawa County. I am appalled that a number of new commissioners are, in fact, members and/or of Ottawa Impact.</p> <p>I am disappointed that none of these changes were on the public agenda that was published prior to the start of the public meeting, nor were they debated ahead of time. This is the opposite of transparency and responsible leadership.</p>
489	1/8/2023 17:46	Brenda Vandermeulen	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Actions	Sylvia Rhodea said, "And so out of respect for our voters and the need to have leadership in our county which fully aligns with the board of commissioners and who will cooperate, and work fully and transparently with the board of commissioners, we believe it's
490	1/8/2023 18:00	Margarete Fochtman	Yes	Robinson Township	congrats and a concern	<p>Congratulations John Gibbs!! you certainly seem to be qualified to guide our county. Looking forward to good things in Ottawa Cty. My concern...have addressed this issue earlier, have read agendas following but have not seen where this problem has been handled. Last summer we had extensive damage done to our trees, all along 144th in the Fall, you could see the tops of most trees did not have many leaves. The trees in my yard were the same. The problem..gypsy moths, caterpillars dropped from the branches, I sprayed without much effect. I removed the egg cases wherever possible in late Oct. Besides the mess, the trees did not fare well, another summer like that and even mature trees will not recover. County hasn't sprayed since 2014, please address this small problem before it becomes a large one!! Thank you, MF</p>
491	1/8/2023 18:49	James Kubiak	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Political Coup	The stink emanating from the Fillmore complex last week was pretty rank. The political coup undertaken without a legally required published agenda was politics at its worse. I am embarrassed by the behavior of the new County Commissioners determined to silence the voice of moderates and push their radical Trump-oriented platform. Looks like a "My Way or Highway" scenario taking form in Ottawa County. Sad.
492	1/8/2023 18:52	Paige Voss	Yes	Park Township	Displeasure of the shit that just happend	What the fuck is your problem. How dare you close the DEI office. You are complete idiots for shutting that office down. It is a place that allows for all people of the community to feel welcome and shows that the state cares about all people and is actively trying to be inclusive. Also that stupid shit you guys pulled to try to make Ottawa county more conservative is not cool and to top it all off you made fucking John Gibbs in charge.

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						<p>Dear Ottawa Co Commissioners, Thank you for your willingness to serve our community through this role.</p> <p>I was reminded recently of a saying that used to be popular in West Michigan - If ya ain't Dutch, ya ain't much. While people who moved to Holland in the 80's still quote this with hurt and a feeling of being left out, as someone who moved here in the last 12 years, I only find it silly.</p> <p>In the 21st century, it seems obvious that what's interesting and strong about any community is our strength through differences, not any kind of insular desire for sameness or nostalgia for a past that looked different. I enjoy the quirky American-Dutch qualities of Holland, but Holland is a great place to live because of all the other people, characteristics, and factors that make it up now.</p> <p>When you decided to change the county's motto away from "Where You Belong", that sent an unfortunate message to all of us who ain't Dutch, (or Ottawa County Patriots, or conservative Christians) that you think we might NOT belong. Was that what you meant to say?</p> <p>While this isn't my only concern - a number of other actions taken at the last meeting seem an extremely poor use of our tax dollars, and your elected time - it is an obvious and troubling sign for the direction Ottawa County may be moving.</p> <p>We might be left wondering whose Freedom is allowed to be Ringing in the new Ottawa County.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rhonda Edgington</p>
493	1/8/2023 19:24	Rhonda Edgington	Yes	Holland City	Who belongs?	
494	1/8/2023 20:07	Ryan Burns	Yes	Robinson Township	New commissioners	<p>Congratulations and thank you for your willingness and courage to do what you promised! Keep up the good work and Let Freedom Ring!</p>
495	1/8/2023 20:29	Susan powers	No		Proud of Ottawa co. Commissioners	<p>I would like to say how proud I am of the new commissioners of Ottawa co. They have the fortitude to do the peoples bidding. I wish we could have these strong people here in Walker. The article in the press was a disgrace. What is our conservative West Michigan coming to? How in the world did it get this far off the tracks? We the people do not want to forget our constitution or our Bible. Ottawa Co shows outstanding grace and the awareness to get things done in the America first way. Congrats new commissioners! I am praying for your success!</p>
496	1/8/2023 20:38	Marcia Klemp	Yes	Ferrysburg City	Understanding	<p>Hi. Remember there are many people of different backgrounds that live here. Be open to all residents and their beliefs.</p>
497	1/8/2023 20:59	Marilynblackburn	Yes	Park Township	Gibbs- new health officer	<p>Gibbs is an election denier! Kelly has NO business in health position with his stance on Masks and vax!!! Shame on all of you for the way you went about this!!!</p>
498	1/8/2023 21:01	Tom Creswell	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board performance to date.	<p>Love the way the board has worked in the past. Love our park system, county financial positions, and our efforts towards equity and inclusion for those who have been disenfranchised</p>

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						<p>First, let me say that I'm appalled at the back room scheming and double dealing that led to the "firing" of a good, hard working County Administrator, and you're being "hired" in his place. You shouldn't have accepted the job under such circumstances. It's exemplary of your own ignorance of proper governmental meetings in Michigan, very clearly violating Michigan's Open Meetings Act by not ensuring that the various controversial actions at last week's meeting were included in the published agenda. While I was employed in Kent County government from 1984 to 2000 it was an immutable rule that all actionable Board business must be included on the agenda issued at least a week before the Board meeting. Last week's actions by the new Ottawa County Board members were unforgivable rookie mistakes and power grabs designed to block public comment against their actions and lock the public out of the decisions being made. The State Attorney General is right to open an investigation into those actions, and you, John Gibbs, did nothing to stop it and comply with the law. You clearly are not knowledgeable, willing or able to uphold the laws of this great state!</p> <p>Second, I am appalled at the way you wear your religion on your political sleeve in order to curry favor from the Christian right, clearly taking advantage of this County's strong Christian roots and alienating anyone who might not adhere to your version of Christianity. As a life-long Roman Catholic having lived in Ottawa County for over 30 yrs, and in adjacent Kent and Muskegon Counties for over 35 yrs before that, I can tell you that most Ottawa County "Christians" don't acknowledge that Catholics are the original Christians, preceding any other Christian denomination by over 1,500 years. Even going so far as to judge and look down on Catholics. Take that religious superiority towards Catholics and amplify it towards Jews, Muslims, Asians, atheists and agnostics, and maybe you'll understand why no modern US politician should ever employ his/her religion in this way. We see your callous references to your God, prayer and Christian missionary work as the obvious attempts of a complete carpet-bagger to ingratiate yourself with the local Christian right. You would be well advised to work hard, listen, be fair and gain the respect of ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF OTTAWA COUNTY, not just the Christian right. That should include Democrats and ALL of the County's minority groups, not just your white Republican backers!!</p>
499	1/8/2023 21:33	Jerry Powell	Yes	Spring Lake Village	John Gibbs "Greeting"	
500	1/9/2023 4:46	Doolittle	Yes	Grand Haven City	Appalled.	I'm absolutely appalled by your stance on women's rights, I will do everything I can to see you removed as a citizen on grand haven.
						<p>Dear Members of the Board of Commissioners, I am looking for help in understanding the actions of the board. What was so urgent that the board fired two people with a cost in severance of \$300,000? Why were the present employees terminated without cause and a new administrator who the U.S. Senate did not confirm because of questions about his beliefs and tweets "hired"? Is the commission privy to information that the U.S. Senate was not? Why was the agenda added to at the last minute keeping the community from giving input? Finally, why did the board fire a fully competent health officer and hire one who has an online degree and who had not been vetted by the state and has shown little regard for medical science. I appreciate your help in answering these questions as you lead Ottawa County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
501	1/9/2023 5:09	Larry Doornbos	Yes	Zeeland City	Board Actions at last meeting	Larry Doornbos
502	1/9/2023 5:24	jim naber	Yes	Holland City	legitimicy	You are not legitimate.
503	1/9/2023 6:44	John Schwalm	Yes	Georgetown Township	Welcome	John Gibbs, thank you for the heart felt introduction. Welcome! My name is John Schwalm and I have been a Trustee for Georgetown Township for well over 10 years. Please consider addressing the 11 districts and touring our communities. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and the Ottawa County board. Welcome! Sincerely, John

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						<p>I have been seeing our newly elected officials blocking people from their official Twitter accounts where they have been posting things such as "Contract with Ottawa" as well as officially listing themselves as County Board members. Blocking anyone from seeing the account of an elected official that is used by a government actor is a violation of that persons First Amendment rights.</p> <p>What justification can be given for the board members to be violating the First Amendment?</p> <p>Also, in one of the posts made on this twitter account a claim is made that "most of DEI's violate the Constitution and the Civil Rights Act."</p>
504	1/9/2023 8:13	Luke Kulikamp	Yes	Grand Haven City	Twitter Comments and Use by Board Members	What practices performed by the DEI Office in Ottawa County, specifically, violated the Constitution or Civil Rights Act?
505	1/9/2023 8:34	Becky Steiner	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Welcome!	Congratulations, Mr. Gibbs, on your appointment! As a longtime resident of Ottawa County, I'm excited to see all you will do for our county. I wish you the best and will support you however I can.
506	1/9/2023 9:59	Tom Beamish	Yes	Holland City	New Ottawa County Board Members	<p>Based on the extreme rhetoric advanced by the Ottawa Impact Board of Commissioners candidates prior to the recent election, I can honestly say that I am not shocked by the actions they took at the January 3, 2023 meeting. However, I am absolutely appalled and disgusted by the underhanded and non-transparent events that occurred during that meeting. I've lived in Ottawa County for 33 years now, and consider myself moderately conservative. In no way, shape, or form do the Ottawa Impact commissioners represent my viewpoints or philosophies as a resident of the County. It is my sincere hope that the new commissioners will take a broader view of the entire population of Ottawa County and the harm that their actions will inflict on all of us.</p>
507	1/9/2023 10:16	Ryan Nichols	Yes	Grand Haven City	New Board - thank you!	<p>We are very thankful for your recent decisions.</p> <p>We have two boys in Grand Haven high school who have complained all year about their "woke teachers" pushing LGBTQ and CRT agendas masked as DEI. They have no data or fact-based evidence to imply our society is "racist" and not accepting of others. Such liberal 19th century social agendas are divisive manipulation of far-left progressives. Specifically, the schools have been doing this via English and Social Studies teachers.</p> <p>As a parent, we want our kids to get the best education and there should never be a political or social agenda being pushed by the academic staff - that is unacceptable and has nothing to do with academics. Not even at UC Berkeley is "critical theory" part of a degree â€” rather recognized as a specialized extended subject of study. I am doing my higher education there, and trust me, my instructors at Berkeley have "no time" for any non-sense outside the academic syllabus in the computer science curriculum. Hence, I believe many of them could be conservatives - surprisingly.</p> <p>So why the push for the Democrat "group think" and virtue signaling here in Ottawa County? It does seem fundamentally wrong as it does not speak for our entire community. Instead, it should be compartmentalized to those who are interested in it, versus forced and pushed into all aspects of our childrenâ€™s education.</p> <p>In conclusion, all I ask from the Board is to allow the liberals and moderate Democrats the space to express their views, offer ideas and suggestions with sincere appreciation. Also, please avoid any conflicts of contentious words. As conservatives, we have to set the highest example possible in order to ask that we get treated the same in return.</p> <p>As a conservative myself, I am always respectful and welcome the views of others - as long as it is a sound intellectual dialogue. I may not agree with all progressive views, though I do let them know they have the opportunity to help our society in their own space - just NOT always in my house or with my children. The core belief system is not the same, though we should all agree on peace &amp; harmony.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

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508	1/9/2023 10:54	Lori Grasman	Yes	Robinson Township	Thanks!!!	<p>Screams of "Christian Nationalist, Racist, bigots" and many more have flooded our county BUT that was SO last year and failed miserably!!! But they are continuing to echo those same words and threats. I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU!!! There is now hope in this county! Adults that can have conversation and debate WITHOUT calling names is now in charge and who truly value free speech!</p> <p>And transparency... is SO important and truly I think the only area that is missing transparency is this form of public comment. Online public comment isn't seen by the public. The name in and of itself is a lie. Let's make online comments public. It will allow the public to see how those that hide behind a keyboard are speaking to our elected officials. The public can learn the concerns of those around them.</p> <p>Anyway, thank you again for being bold and doing what was promised. Don't listen to those screaming names, that was so last year and isn't effective. As we seen by the votes of the people. In fact, there is an article in Bridge Michigan saying that even though Republicans lost statewide, we scored BIG in counties in Michigan. You guys have the MAJORITY, no matter who is screaming! Thanks again! Keep up the amazing work. Sending prayers daily!</p>
509	1/9/2023 11:22	Deborah Beamish	Yes	Holland City	Actions of the board at the January 3, 2023 meetin	<p>As a 30 plus year resident of the county, I want to emphatically state that the Ottawa Impact board members do NOT represent me. I watched that meeting live and was appalled at both the actions and the manner in which they were taken. Board members who campaigned on transparency certainly broke that promise from the outset. It is clear that county residents cannot trust this board. They appear unwilling to follow principles of good governance, but instead operate under the premise that the ends justify the means. That is unacceptable.</p>
510	1/9/2023 11:31	David Stader	Yes	Holland Charter Township	John Gibbs	<p>I am sickened by your religious references. Separation of church and state! You are not welcomed here. You were not appointed appropriately. You think you can reference God and that makes any action you do ok. I am sick of Republicans like you.</p>
511	1/9/2023 11:54	Larry Luciani	Yes	Georgetown Township	Jan 3 Board meeting	<p>I live in Ottawa County, District 6.</p> <p>I would like to voice my extreme negative opinion on the changes made at the board meeting on Jan 3 2023. I do not agree with the changes and the way they were implemented. Government performed in the shadows with back room deals to avoid public opinion and comment is unconscionable.</p>
512	1/9/2023 11:57	Sandy Price	Yes	Holland City	New Commissioner's cut and firings.	<p>Dear Ottawa County Commissioner's</p> <p>I am appalled, disappointed and furious regarding your actions at your last board meeting. Firing employees without just cause, closing the Diversity Department is an outrage.</p> <p>I find it depressing you would close such a valuable and important department in this day and age. What are your justification for such actions?</p> <p>I have always bragged about Ottawa County as being so programmed, offering so many services and being the best. Having so many resources, only to become an embarrassment! Please reconsider your actions. The damage you are doing to our reputation will take years to overcome. You are leading us backwards into the past and using your position of power to force your will onto your constituents, not representing our wishes.</p> <p>Sandra Price</p>

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513	1/9/2023 12:51	Lisa Frey	Yes	Ferrysburg City	First County Commissioners meeting 2023	Hiring John Gibbs as administrator is a step back in progress for our county. He has expressed extremist views and promotes conspiracy theories. Regarding his views, he needs to explain and rescind his comments that women should not vote. The county by selecting him has stepped back in time potentially alienating women who vote in this county. Elimination of the DEI also is absurd, diversity is hardly evident by this decision. This will push industry/business and potential new residents to reconsider settling here. As far as changing the county motto, feels like people will not belong unless you are "Far Right" thinking. What cost will this incur to tax payers....have the fiscal "conservatives" thought of that? Doesn't sound "free" to me!
514	1/9/2023 13:22	Jackie Knue	Yes	Ferrysburg City	What is going ON????	What is happening. Firing with out just cause and hiring unqualified people for the county I live in. Just appalled and saddened that a few that belong to a small and extreme ideology are able to make these decisions that effect all of us without public discourse.
515	1/9/2023 14:49	Sheila Dettloff	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Ottawa County is where we ALL belong	<p>Although the Ottawa Impact candidates gave us every indication that their intention was to cause immediate chaos, it happened with such speed and subterfuge that even Rebekah Curran and Jacob Bonnema were stunned. I do not support any of the actions taken by the Chaos Commissioners in their first [official] meeting, but particularly object to the firing of John Shay and the appointing of the election-denying, woman-hating losing candidate John Gibbs; the illegal firing of Adeline Hambley and the attempted hiring of the woefully inept and unqualified science denier Nate Kelly, and the elimination of the DEI office, an office which contributes not only to the cultural and fiscal well-being of the county but helps ensure none of us become so ensconced in our cultural, racial, gender, religious, and sexual orientation bubbles that we ostracize and belittle those who don't look, believe, or act like us.</p> <p>After first hearing about the outcome of the meeting, I thought that the behavior of my representative, Lucy Ebel, and the other Ottawa Impact contingent couldn't possibly be as full of malfeasance as news articles indicated, so I watched the meeting on YouTube and discovered their behavior was actually worse than portrayed in the media.</p> <p>Joe Moss and his group of Chaos Commissioners will never have my support, and in fact I will actively work against their agenda. I do fully support Doug Zylstra in his opposition to this grave misconduct by some members of the board, and I offer support to Rebekah Curran and Jacob Bonnema because, while I do understand their basic ideologies do not match mine, I encourage them to continue to exemplify good character and help mitigate the damage done by their colleagues.</p> <p>Ottawa County is where we ALL belong.</p>
516	1/9/2023 15:40	Diana Ciofu	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	New administrators	I am absolutely thrilled with your new appointments, and particularly, John Gibbs. We need all the common sense that we can possibly get, and I would like less dependence upon the Federal government, and generally, more thrift and self reliance. Thank you very, very much for seeing the talent, perseverance and basic backbone of a very highly qualified fellow citizen--one who, front and center, at the very least, values being in America! Thank you for listening to your constituents, thank you for hearing me, thank you for all that you are doing to become more streamlined and efficient. Sincerely, Diana Ciofu